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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

AFRICANS UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT FRENCH INTERVENTION IN CHAD

Dakar AFRICA in French Feb 81 p 35

[Article by Renee Pelletier: "Letter From Paris: Africa Dominates Presidential Campaign"]

[Text] Should France intervene or should France not intervene in Chad to prevent Col Qadhdhafi's troops from making themselves the masters of Ndjamena? Since last 14 December, against a backdrop of Chad, Libya, the Elysee, oil, and several shadowy walk-ons, high military officials in particular, a tragi-comedy has been troubling the political class in French society in a timely way, a class which the imminence of the presidential election was not managing to arouse.

It is true that the "unfortunate" coincidence of Tripoli's announcement of the petroleum research contract signed with the French Elf-Aquitaine petroleum group and the entry of Libyan troops into the capital of Chad has come to add to the uneasiness constantly kept alive by the ambiguities of France's Africa policy. It has also come to sustain attacks against "Giscard the African made a fool of by Qadhdhafi the Bedouin." Wintry weather combined with the harmattan have stirred up an ill wind which President Giscard d'Estaing, who has just seen his public following suddenly turned to the left, could well have to bear the brunt of. His mistake was having overestimated the cost of Col Qadhdhafi's plans and having a little hastily decided that those plans were unrealistic.

There are ambiguities, to be sure, but above all there is blundering, of which, for example, the "Chalandon affair" is a good illustration. What are we talking about? Since 1964 the French Elf-Aquitaine petroleum group has maintained its presence in Libya through the intermediary of its subsidiary Elf-Aquitaine-Libya whose production got up to 700,000 barrels last year, of which France imported some 200,000 barrels. At the time of the Libyan-Tunisian disagreement over dividing up the continental shelf, Elf-Aquitaine, which was having difficulties with its ocean exploration permits in Libya, found itself obliged to change its extraction area and officially asked the Tripoli government for new exploration permits on four tracts of land. And in January 1980 the NOC (Competent Libyan Organism) gave a favorable response, thereby allowing negotiations to be opened between the two countries to adapt the general clauses wanted by the Libyans to the specific case of the French prospecting effort. The finishing touches were put on the negotiations in November 1980 with a trip to Tripoli by Albin Chalandon, the president-director general of Elf, who met with the NOC officials and Major Jalloud, the regime's number two man. But only on 6 January did Tripoli announce that discussions had been concluded, and this was at the same time as the plan was announced for merger with Chad.

Giscard Lost Face

Faced with a "fait accompli" which gave the impression that Paris had sold Chad for a few barrels of oil, president of the republic repudiated Chalandon and refused to ratify the agreements made with Tripoli. They had been signed officially without the president's agreement specifically so that their timing, and not their legitimacy, could be disputed later on. This opened the door to all kinds of interpretations, and there were a number of them, in particular those which gave credit to the thesis of a conflict within the higher reaches of the government and of scores being settled between opposing sides.

The fact remains that, for observers as a whole, President Giscard d'Estaing lost a little more face vis-a-vis certain African governments, whose anxiety suddenly mounted. For when Qadhdhafi was making merger proposals to Tunisia or Egypt, it was a question of Arab countries north of the Sahara. But if the Libya-Chad merger were to succeed, the unit thereby created would run from the Mediterranean to the Central African Republic and Nigeria would have a border with Libya. The latest coup in Ouagadougou is already being explained by concern in that country to avoid being seized by the Libyans. In Niger Col Kountche has just launched a wide-ranging anti-Libyan offensive. In Nigeria Libyan diplomats have been expelled, and Senegal is worried about seeing itself included in the "United States of the Sahel" that Col Qadhdhafi dreams of creating. This worry is shared by Mauritania and Cameroon which both have Moslem communities liable to lend an attentive ear to Col Qadhdhafi's railings and schemes.

France was aware of this anxiety and was up to then rather reserved. It felt it had been burned by the lack of support it says it found among Africans after its latest interventions on the African continent. But France let it be known after the event that it would not tolerate any destabilization in Chad's neighbors. However, the decision made on 14 January to strengthen the French military presence in some of Chad's neighbors, if certain political circles are to be believed, came up against the reluctance of the high military authorities because of inadequate logistics, manpower and legal basis for action.

In fact, the annual report on the military of the National Assembly's Finance Committee, which has just come out, stresses how modest the numbers are of COTAM's (the Military Air Transport Command's) heavy transport military aircraft: 100 Nord-Atlas planes, 50 Transall C-160's, 5 DC-8's, 9 DC-6's, and 4 Caravelles. Out of all of these only the Transalls and the DC-8's are capable of transporting a modern interventionary force, besides which the Transalls only offer a small radius of operation. Regarding the 25 new Transalls ordered by the Ministry of Defense, which have higher performance and are equipped with inflight refueling capability, they are supposedly, in the opinion of experts, not able to carry out the missions expected of them, particularly because of their small carrying capacity. There are still the DC-8's, capable of transporting 180 passengers or nearly 30 tons of cargo up to 8000 km non-stop, but COTAM only has 5 of them which puts a limit on what they can do in practice.

The Time of Grand Designs Is Long Past

Well, is the intimidating stance only a matter of form? France--which is training Libyan pilots on French soil, is manufacturing fast patrol boats for Tripoli, the fifth boat having just left the Cherbourg naval shipyard, and supplies Libya as much in the way of arms as it sells to Saudi Arabia and Iraq--does not intend to alienate a country in which some 1800 of its nationals are still working.

"France will only intervene at the express request of the concerned African states," proclaims Jean-Francois Poncet, head of the French diplomatic corps, who knows full well that with a couple of months to go before the presidential election there is no question of raising controversial subjects either inside or outside France. Let us not forget the unfortunate Bangui precedent: all Africans still remember the power play which violently deposed Emperor Bokassa after France had kept him at arms' length for 14 years and had allowed that despot to speedily join in with all of Africa. They remember this first blunder which was quickly absorbed on the African continent, as was the deliberate Paris policy of discrediting Africa and Africans so that it might better subjugate them. Let us not forget the suspicions hanging over the president himself with such poorly explained matters as the Delpey affair or the "Bokassa affair." Long past is the time of France's grand designs in Africa which General de Gaulle had negotiated at the time of independence, and long past is the moral discipline connected with them.

That is why it would be fruitless to wait for Africans to give intervention in Chad a green light: faced with the nationalist movements stirring in Africa and which the moderate chiefs of state must take into account, faced with nations arguing on the basis of the struggle against imperialism, and faced with the blunders of Paris who is quicker to choose its friends or enemies according to its interests than it is to insure the economic development needed for any kind of emancipation, Africa is busy having consultations within itself and is silent. While you are waiting for next March you never know what will happen.

9631

CSO: 4400

ZAMBIAN REPORT: 'ZAIRE REBELS ARE MERCENARIES'

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 Mar 81 p 1

(Text)

BANDS of Zairean mercenaries are in Zambia ready to be used by disgruntled Zambians to disrupt peace and stability in the country.

Zairean ambassador to Zambia Mr Afomi Efek 'en' Aonga made the charge in Lusaka yesterday.

He was commenting on claims by a Zairean national in Lusaka, Mr Mohe Gerard, that he represented an organisation fighting for the secession of Shaba province from Zaire.

The envoy said the mercenaries, whose numbers he declined to disclose because the matter was under investigation by the Zambian Government, were among three groups of refugees from Zaire whose repatriation was being considered by the two governments.

He said the mercenaries were here to destabilise the system and it was the hope of the Zairean government that Zambia would remove them from border areas.

"It is our hope that the Zambian Government will disarm these people and take appropriate measures against them," he said.

Mr Afomi said the embassy had evidence of the mercenaries roaming the country, especially along the border.

Some of them were disguised as Zairean soldiers wearing the uniforms of that country's army.

"The coup attempt last October is ample proof of this situation. Although some of these people have been detained, there are still more roaming the country," he said.

Mr Afomi explained that the first group of Zairean refugees in Zambia were those who had been mistaken for those unwilling to go back and whose repatriation had been allegedly hampered by Zambian officials.

Go round

For this group, the embassy had reached an agreement with the Zambian Government which had allowed the refugees' leaders to go round the country urging the exiles to return home.

The second group was that of Zaireans who did not want to go back home and may have to stay in Zambia for as long as they wished.

"As far as the second and third groups are concerned, my government has no worry about them staying here because we believe the Zambian Government is going to handle this problem adequately.

"My government has no intention of pressurising any of these individuals to go back home," Mr Afum said.

On Mr Gerard, the ambassador said this man was "not worth taking seriously".

The Zairean embassy knew him as an ordinary Zairean living in Zambia. It was not aware of the organisation which he claimed to represent in Zambia.

Break away

Mr Gerard claimed at the weekend to be the representative of the Katangese People's Movement which wants Shaba province to break away from the rest of Zaire.

"My message to those who claim to belong to this group is that they have a long way to wait before they see Shaba breaking away from the rest of Zaire. They may not even see that day," he said.

Last October, Zambian security forces exchanged fire with a group of heavily armed men believed to have been foreigners around Chilanga, south of Lusaka.

They killed two of the mercenaries and injuring another.

Former minister of Home Affairs and now special assistant for political affairs to the President, Mr Würed Phiri, said at the time that security forces had recovered "a quantity of AK47 rifles and magazines, some fully loaded."

President Kaunda announced two weeks later that security forces had captured 45 mercenaries out of an estimated 200 who had plotted to overthrow the Government.

At an earlier State House news conference, the President said the group of mercenaries comprised mostly Zaireans.

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

TOGOLESE SHIP VISITS FREETOWN--Courtesy visits by Togolese Naval Patrol vessels to this country have yielded remarkable brotherhood between Togo and Sierra Leone. Captain Herve Maraval, said in an interview on Thursday. Captain Maraval who is in command of the visiting vessel Kara from Togo which is on a four-day visit to this country said that their visit had greatly been motivated by the desire to promote friendship between our two countries. During previous and current visits he said they had met officials of the Sierra Leone Navy and discussed various opportunities of controlling fishing and other resources in Sierra Leone's territorial waters. Captain Maraval said one of the most important aspects of the Navy is friendly visiting. He said they are expecting naval visits to other countries. "We are hopefully looking forward to a return visit by the Sierra Leone Navy to Togo," he said. On arrival in Freetown on Wednesday the Captain visited the French Embassy which is representing Togo in this country and Ambassador Mr. Victor Gares. He also met government officials of the Sierra Leone Navy before hosting a reception in the evening on-board the Kara for government officials Navy Personnel and other dignitaries. The vessel, which first called at Freetown together with the Mono during its maiden voyage from France to Togo in 1976, was here again in 1979. It will leave on Saturday for Dakar and will return on March 18 enroute for Togo. The vessels have also been using the Freetown Port for refuelling. (Text) [Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 7 Mar 81 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 4420

ADHERENCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY NOT CONTEMPLATED

Libreville L'UNION in French 7-8 Feb 81 p 4

[Article by Maussala Malonga and Obame Emano]

[Excerpts] On Wednesday, 4 February 1981, the People's Republic of Angola celebrated the 20th anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle against the Portuguese colonizer under the leadership of the MPLA, at that time a liberation movement.

In Libreville, the event was marked by a press conference held in the embassy of Angola by the charge d'affaires, Bernardo Dombela Mbala, which was attended by several chiefs of diplomatic missions accredited to Gabon.

Replying to a question about the possibility of Angola's participation in a Southern African Economic Community, the charge d'affaires said that his country is now concentrating on internal problems, particularly those relating to its security, and does not for the moment envisage such a union. On the subject of security, he said that military cooperation agreements signed by Luanda with its allies are not directed against third countries, notably South Africa, as one might believe. Taking Namibia as an example, he said that foreign troops stationed in Angola are not taking part in actions undertaken by Luanda to help the SWAPO. However, he did not say what form such help is taking.

Bringing up the subject of the guerrilla sector, he denied stories by certain newspapers which often report a condition of confrontation between the popular armed forces and the guerrillas of liberation movements rivaling the MPLA. Dombela Mbala said that all these movements have been put down and are now politically dead.

8143

CSO: 4400

REASONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT, AIMS OF PAICV DEFINED

Praia Voz DI NOVO in Portuguese 29 Jan 81 p 5

[Statement by PAICV Congress on 20 January 1980 (as published): "The New Political Entity Inherits the Historic Legacy of the PAIGC"]

[Text] The PAICV [African Independence Party of Cape Verde] has emerged from the historic itinerary of the PAIGC [African Independence Party of Guinea and Cape Verde], whose conquests must be defended and developed in the interest of present and future generations.

In undertaking this historic and revolutionary mission the African Independence Party of Cape Verde--which unites within its ranks the very same party members who in the vanguard of the Cape Verdian people are conducting their struggle for independence, progress and social justice--proclaims its loyalty to the ideas of Amilcar Cabral: ideas which will continue to guide its actions.

As a legitimate continuator of the historic mission of the PAIGC at the head of the struggle of the Cape Verdian people, the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV)--based on the confidence which the popular masses place in its members, whom they regard as the guarantors of the defense of their interests and the achievement of their most profound aspirations--is fully assuming the function of political leadership of Cape Verdian society and the Cape Verdian state.

The African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) has developed into a liberation movement that is at the helm of government: a movement which within the framework of a democratic revolution is uniting the nation's forces in the effort to consolidate the political independence of Cape Verde and achieve its harmonious economic and social development.

The African Independence Party of Cape Verde has adopted the ideological content of the PAIGC program and will continue its commitment to implementation of that program with the aim of achieving the supreme objective of the struggle of the Cape Verdian people--the construction of a new society of justice, progress and freedom, a society in which man's exploitation of man does not exist.

In keeping with the lofty values which have always guided the struggle for national liberation, and interpreting the true meaning of history, the African Independence Party of Cape Verde has opted in favor of the principle of African unity--a principle whose historical validity was demonstrated in the struggle of the peoples for

their emancipation, and particularly in the struggle which led the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde to national independence.

In respect to international politics the PAICV will observe the same principles that guided the action of the PAIGC in that sphere. It has expressed its desire to maintain privileged relations with the parties that belonged to the CONCP [Conference of the National Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies] and with all parties and organizations that supported the struggle for national liberation.

In constructing the new society the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) will continue to be guided by those decisions of the Third Congress of the PAIGC which are applicable in the present period.

The African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) is accordingly exercising the function of political leadership of the society and government of Cape Verde, and is establishing the general bases for the political, economic, social, defense and security program; defining the stages, and means, for achieving the objectives established for each of these sectors; orienting and directing the exercise of governmental power, in order to ensure the complete fulfillment of its program; and associating the popular masses with the exercise of power, in order to safeguard the democratic character of the governmental system ensure the defense of their interests.

The party's program of economic and social development has as its primary goal the eradication of the consequences of colonial domination--the eradication of man's exploitation of man and all forms of subjection of the human person to shameful interests for the profit of individuals, groups or classes. To implement its program of economic and social development the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) is asserting itself as a dynamizing force for the rational utilization and development of the natural resources of Cape Verde and for the development of the nation's productive forces; is promoting the progressive enhancement of the technical and cultural capacities and social well-being of the workers; and stimulating creativity based on the nation's cultural values.

In concert with the other peoples the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) proclaims its everlasting fidelity to the principles which have always oriented the conduct of the PAIGC on the world scene, and has in this way taken its stand among the progressive forces who are genuinely committed to the struggle for the ennoblement of men and nations. In its role as guarantor of full sovereignty the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) will--in its relations with foreign countries--carry out a policy of strict observance of the principle of independence of thought and action and will practice solidarity with the peoples who are fighting against imperialist domination.

In fulfilling its historic mission of the political leadership of Cape Verdian society, the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV) will promote the establishment and development of relations of cooperation between the Republic of Cape Verde and all nations on the basis of international law and the principles of national independence, noninterference in internal affairs, and reciprocity of privileges.

The Republic of Cape Verde will continue to follow a consistent policy of non-alignment, particularly as regards support for the struggle of the oppressed peoples and for the effort in behalf of a new international economic order, peaceful coexistence, cooperation among the peoples, peace, and general and complete disarmament.

The PAICV declares that in Africa--at the continental level and also at the regional level--Cape Verde will remain faithful to the principle of unity, conceived as a mechanism for the progress of the peoples. The Government of Cape Verde will continue to participate actively in the regional and continental organizations that are striving to put into practice the ideals of African unity; it will strive especially to effect consolidation of the privileged relations already existing among the African countries that have arisen out of the struggle against Portuguese colonialism.

On the basis of the close ties formed throughout history between the Cape Verdian and Guinean peoples, the PAICV expresses the desire of its members to witness the development--between the Republic of Cape Verde and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau--of fraternal relations of cooperation in all spheres, in accordance with the established principles of foreign policy and the true interests of the two peoples.

Praia, 20 January 1980 [sic]

The Congress of the African Independence Party of Cape Verde (PAICV)

10992

CSO: 4401

CAPE VERDIANS' DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON PROTESTED

Praia VOZ DI POVO in Portuguese 29 Jan 61 p 1

[Editorial: "Is Recolonisation Being Prepared in Lisbon?"]

[Text] The Cape Verde Official Radio this week expressed surprise at the fact that the Portuguese Government had permitted "naturalized Cape Verdians to organize demonstrations in Lisbon against the legitimate government of Cape Verde, with which Portugal maintains diplomatic relations--and relations of cooperation--which are deemed to be exemplary."

Reacting--in an editorial statement--to a demonstration staged by 200 "Cape Verdian" residents of Lisbon and covered extensively by Portuguese state television, the Cape Verde Official Radio spoke of the relations which these renegades--these advocates of a return to the colonial past--maintain with the minigroups of the Portuguese Right, and wondered whether the "reconquest and recolonization of Cape Verde" are being prepared in the Portuguese capital.

The editorial stressed the amazement felt by foreign political circles at the way in which Cape Verde--despite its long-standing relations of friendship with the Portuguese Left--has been able to avoid discriminating in favor of any individual Portuguese political party, thus making a distinction between party interests on the one hand and relations among states and the interests of the people of Cape Verde on the other. It demanded that an explanation be made to the Cape Verde Government, on grounds that--it said--"we do not believe any part of all this falls within the framework of the facilities provided by 'pluralistic democracy.'"

The editorial further declared that the twisted minds of "colonialized" individuals dream of destabilizing Cape Verde and disturbing the peace and serenity that prevail here. It affirmed that the people of Cape Verde will know how to defend themselves against the designs already revealed in the case of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea and now--as a logical sequel--in the case of Cape Verde.

In this regard--the editorial says--these individuals should stop fooling themselves. "Cape Verde," it adds, "will be the porcupine that will mortally sting any and all intruders who approach it!"

QADHDHAFI SAID TO BE INCAPABLE OF 'DIGESTING' HIS VICTORY

Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Feb 81 p 2

[Article by Thierry Desjardins: "Chad in Libya's Hour"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] God, but Ndjamena is a pathetic sight in Libya's hour! Once the Chadian capital was a charming little African town full of flowers, flame-trees, bougainvilleas, that stretched leisurely along the Chari. It was both dusty and cool. One still felt the northern desert, but tropical Africa was already beginning. Side by side there were those big lanky men of the sands in their white robes, mere skin and bones, with their distinguished demeanor, pride, and hospitality, and the gentle /"blacks"/ of the savannah, mischievous, scheming, and always on the point of bursting out with laughter. It was no paradise, but everything and everyone seemed happy, all along the sandy river: the hippopotamuses emerging [from the water] to yawn, the /"little whites"/ in their scattered villas amongst the trees in the west, and the blacks in the African quarter, toward the east and north. Ndjamena was doubtless one of the most attractive towns of the southern Sahara, along with Agades and Kano, thanks to its walls of beaten earth, red as the soil and shaped by hand. I was fond of Ndjamena.

But all that is over. There was a civil war. The people of the north, from the desert, killed each other and destroyed everything as if they wanted to avenge themselves on urban civilization. Two rival bands of barely 2,000 men each took only a few months--from March to December 1980--to destroy everything, to plunder everything. And now there is the Libyan occupation. Ndjamena the Charming has become Ndjamena the Sinister, the Dismal, the Libyan. And one must admit that if one is French and walks around today in old Fort Lamy in the midst of the ruins, the Libyan arrogance, and the hatred of the indigenous people, one feels a sort of malaise.

The town is deserted, dead, ravaged. More than 2 months after the end of the fighting, one has the impression that nothing has changed, that the war has only

just ended. Nothing has been rebuilt, no one has returned, nothing has been restored. The Libyans are supreme on the battlefield, and though one no longer hears the death rattle of the wounded, which has been replaced with an astonishing, deathly silence--leading one to think that the birds themselves have not yet returned--one still glimpses pillagers rummaging in the ruins. The streets are empty; the walls of the houses are riddled with bullets; the doors are gone; the windows are gone; the stores are devastated; even the ironwork grills have been torn out; even the shelves have been stolen. From time to time, an auto, obviously stolen from a European who has fled, confidently moves through an intersection with two or three /"officials"/ aboard, excited and still drunk with victory. But the shaded avenue which extends all along the river, the green plaza where the cathedral is located, the environs of Camp Koufra (which once again had to change its name, even though Koufra is a Libyan town), the quarter of European villas--all are uninhabited, incinerated, disemboweled, stamped by the war with that odor of death and desolation that clings to the walls. One almost expects suddenly to discover some corpses behind a gutted wall.

80,000 Refugees

The African quarter is less lugubrious. First of all, it has not been systematically pillaged for nearly a year as the European quarter has been. It was the FAN [Northern Armed Forces] of Hissain Rabre that occupied that part of the city and one must certainly say that they /"restrained themselves better"/ than Goukouni's FAP [People's Armed Forces]. In addition, the African population was less quick to flee than the Europeans. Also, there is less to pillage and break in the beaten-earth houses. Finally, these houses "hold up better" under bombing than the modern villas with their large glassed bay windows. Here, one glimpses silhouettes. There is a semblance of life which has resumed, a bit of market activity, a few open stalls, three or four old people sitting on the terrace of an Arab coffee house, a woman out in search of water. It is not terrific, but one might imagine that it is always the siesta hour, and then everything appears normal. The great mosque seems intact with its courtyard, its dried fountains, and its two minarets. One almost has the impression that it has changed since the arrival of the Libyans, that it gloats now in the axis of all the main arteries of the city. In any event, what is certain is that it is perfectly maintained and that no one is ready to repair the cathedrals.

How many inhabitants does Ndjamena have today? It is impossible to know. Goukouni himself has no idea. Walking around, one would swear that it is a dead city. However, there are surely several tens of thousands of people burrowed in here and there, living by hook or by crook. What is known is that on the other side of Chari, in Koussery, on the Cameroonian side of the river, more than 80,000 refugees, inhabitants of Ndjamena, dare not take the boat back home, two months after the end of the fighting, because they are still afraid, because they do not like the Libyans, because their houses are destroyed, and above all because they know that there would be nothing for them to do there, that there is still no telephone, almost no electricity, no food, no work. And, too, from time to time, one still hears bursts of machine gun fire, especially in the evenings and at night.

So this population prefers to keep waiting and live on international charity. The Red Cross, the UN High Commission on Refugees, and "Medicins Sans Frontieres" look

after them, care for them, feed them. In the Third World, one quickly picks up the habit of being on welfare! Every morning, tens of thousands of refugees go to the river. They wash their ragged clothes while looking at their city hidden over there in the trees 100 meters away. Just now one can cross the Chari on foot; the waters are low. And yet, no one crosses. A pathetic spectacle, full of bitterness. It is not wise to tell these people that one is French.

/"France betrayed us; if the Libyans are here, it is Paris's fault. France should have helped Goukouni; France should have helped Hisssein Habre; if France had not abandoned the military base, Qadhafi never would have dared attack."/

No one knows yet whether Paris followed a set policy in the Chadian affair, but what is obvious is that, if there is a policy, the kindest thing one can say is that it was poorly understood on the spot.

I was told: /"There are 10,000 Libyans occupying Ndjamena."/ I hardly saw a single Libyan. It is true that, though I had a visa and a scheduled meeting with the president of the republic, I passed my time getting turned away by armed pseudo-officials, half-thugs, half-tramps, on the pretext that /"Chad is no longer a colony"/ and that there is /"no more need of western journalists."/

Soviet Arms

Indeed, the /"Libyan Expeditionary Corps"/ in Chad is composed of about 5,000 men. For Africa that is enormous. Last year there were no more than 1,100 men at Tacaoud, the French base in Ndjamena. At present, we have only 1,300 men in the Central African Republic. By way of comparison, the Cameroonian army is about 6,000 men, and the army of the RCA (Central African Republic) is about 4,000 men. So Qadhafi has certainly not scrimped, especially as these 5,000 men are equipped with some of the most modern and magnificent armament, which is of course not the case with any army in the region.

Of these 5,000 men, about 3,500 are actually Libyans, whereas about 1,500 are members of the /"Islamic Legion,"/ a collection of mercenaries from nearly all the Muslim African countries that Qadhafi has recruited through promises and petrodollars. These troops, who imagine they are participating in the reconquest of Islam are receiving a wage of 3,000 per month, which is considerable for Africa, higher than a minister's official salary in every country on the continent.

These 5,000 men are entirely equipped along Soviet lines, Kalashnikovs, Molotov jeeps adapted to the desert, T-54 and T-56 tanks, modernized and also adapted to the sand, surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles, helicopters, and fighter-bombers. On paper, this army should be capable of conquering a good ten countries in the region in record time! However, what disturbs those /"observers"/ who at least cast some doubt on the military capabilities of these Libyans or pretended Libyans, is not so much the materiel as the presence of around 150 East German advisers. We know very well, from witnesses and above all from radio announcements, that all the airplane and helicopter pilots, all the missile officers, and the majority of the armored unit captains are German. In addition to these Germans who must have learned Arabic in Egypt (in Nasser's time), there are several C-54 infantry units and a handful of Italian mercenaries.

One month ago, it seems, one saw many members of the occupying forces in the streets of Ndjamená. But there were incidents. Three Libyans were stabbed in the African quarter and a pitched battle took place three weeks ago near Camp Koufra between occupation forces and Chadian soldiers. Today, the Libyans have practically disappeared from the capital. They are billeted in the old French base at the western edge of the capital, around the aerodrome, and several detachments are located in the peripheral sections in order to surround the city or at least control the essential access points. There must be about 1,500 men on the base and 500 men scattered in the /"suburbs."/

The bulk of the Libyan troops are at Dougoula, a former French base 50 km north of Ndjamená, in the middle of the desert. The Libyan-German (so as not to say Libyan-Soviet) PC is headquartered here, and it was thanks to Dougoula and its long airstrip that Qadhafi was able, with a Sebbeh-Dougoula air bridge, to mount the attack on the capital.

Even in Ndjamená I did not see more than a couple of Libyan soldiers who were discreetly performing their prayers at the great mosque. Quite definitely, it is impossible to approach either the base or the aerodrome.

The Prestige of Paris

Almost all the Chadians that I met are quite plain-spoken: /"It is not a question of the Libyans installing themselves here. We did not chase the French out in order to have them replaced by illiterate bedouins."/ Only friends of Acyl Amat, who all have villas in Tripoli and who already--according to public rumor--must have accounts in Swiss banks, show themselves well disposed toward /"a great natural union between all the peoples of the Sahara."/

The others say they are ready to return to arms one day if necessary, and they still ask themselves why France abandoned its excellent base /"thereby offering Qadhafi a nice warm place in this continent which, by definition, abhors a vacuum."/

If one tells them that it was Goukouni, president of the Transitional National Union Government, who demanded our departure, and that all the accords on Chad prohibited the presence of foreign troops on Chadian soil, they shrug their shoulders and explode: /"Goukouni demanded no such thing. He made a show of demanding the departure of the French troops because he was persuaded that Paris would refuse, and then he could trade maintaining the base against a halt in the aid Paris was giving (albeit timidly) to Hisssein Habre. But Paris, which had its own plans, jumped at the chance. We were booby-trapped by France!"]

The functionary at the ministry of the interior is categorical. /"We are victims of an accord between Paris and Tripoli. France and Libya seem to be confronting each other here, but everyone knows that you have the best possible relations, particularly trade and oil relations, with Qadhafi. Giscard and Qadhafi have decided to divide up Chad. The Muslims for Qadhafi; the blacks for Giscard. And Libya will buy your arms and sell you oil! You will never be able to make a single Chadian believe that if Paris did not want Qadhafi to come into our country,

there would be 5,000 Libyan soldiers in Chad today. But Paris made a mistake, because Qadhdhafi is not going to be satisfied with northern Chad, and the Chadians are not going to agree to be traded off for oil!"/

What is going to happen now? Unquestionably, Qadhdhafi is incapable of /"digesting"/ his victory. He has 5,000 men on the spot, but he does not have a single technician able to put this destroyed country back on its feet. As we have already said, two months after the end of the war, 80,000 refugees at Koussery, not to mention those in the Sudan and elsewhere, cannot go home and for purely material reasons. In diplomatic terms, Qadhdhafi has just received a severe setback. He hoped that as the weeks passed, Africa would end by accepting the fait accompli. He had hoped to be able to come to Ndjamena next week to preside simultaneously over his triumph and over an African mini-summit (Libya-Nigeria-Chad). It would have been a double victory. But Nigeria (/the African elephant,/ host of the Lagos conference) did not fall into the trap and refused to give its sanctions to the conqueror. Before coming to Ndjamena, the Nigerian president demanded to know /"the precise schedule for the Libyan withdrawal!"/ He did not get one. He did not come. And he is all the more on the defensive because several weeks ago violent demonstrations broke out in the northern part of his own country, in Kano, and he immediately saw in them--no doubt with good reason--the fine hand of Qadhdhafi.

9516

CSO: 4400

MENGISTU MEETS BREZHNEV AT CPSU CONGRESS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 28 Feb 81 pp 1,3

[Text] Addis Ababa (ENA)--Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam and Comrade Leonid Brezhnev Thursday met and had talks on relations between the two fraternal countries and world developments of mutual interest and concern.

A TASS dispatch received here yesterday afternoon described the talks between the two leaders as extremely warm and cordial and said both sides expressed satisfaction with the present state of relations and cooperation between Socialist Ethiopia and the Soviet Union.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army has attended in Moscow sessions of the CPSU Congress.

The Congress meeting was opened last Monday by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

TASS reported that Comrade Chairman Mengistu expressed admiration for the CPSU Central Committee's report to the Congress and the efficient and businesslike atmosphere in which it is being conducted. The Soviet leader was quoted as stressing that the struggle for strengthening global peace, deepening detente and curbing the arms race is the concern of all peace-loving forces in the world. Comrade Brezhnev was also reported to have expressed confidence that under the leadership of COPWE relations between Socialist Ethiopia and the Soviet Union will be considerably enhanced.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu on his part noted that the 26th CPSU Congress was of great international significance and said its grandiose prospects as outlined in the CPSU Central Committee report inspire all those forces committed to the struggle against imperialism and reaction.

CSO: 4420

STRENGTHENING OF OAU ADVOCATED DESPITE DIFFERENCES

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 25 Feb 81 p 2

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] Socialist Ethiopia has called on member states of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to shoulder their historic responsibility of responding to the plight of the African peoples struggling to overcome socio-economic backwardness and for strengthening the continental organization.

Ethiopia's call for joint efforts to realize the all-round progress of the African peoples and for concerted action to strengthen the OAU and rid the continent of remaining vestiges of imperialist-racist domination and colonial plunder is very timely indeed.

Today, the forces of world imperialism and reaction, working in alliance with puppet elements in Africa, the Middle East and in the surrounding areas are engaged in multifaceted acts of conspiracy aimed at undermining the peace, security and social progress of the African peoples and other oppressed peoples such as the Palestinians.

In the face of these reactionary conspiracies, the peoples of Africa need to unite their ranks and put up common struggle against enemy quarters. In this, they have the support of all the forces of peace and progress in the world.

At this juncture, it is quite in order to point out the short-sighted policy being pursued by some countries to undermine unity and cooperation among African states, as was spelt out by the PMAC Assistant Secretary-General during his address Monday afternoon to the 36th OAU Ministerial Council Session at Africa Hall.

Indeed, any manifestation of disunity and acts that run counter to the Charter principles and resolutions of the OAU mean playing into the hands of the enemies of Africa who are always ready to exploit the weakness of Africans for their wicked designs of torpedoing the struggle of our peoples for emancipation from imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism.

Many were those who wished the demise of the OAU and the aggravation of conflict and crisis situation in the African continent. Yet, to their dismay, the Organization of African Unity has come to stay, serving as a viable forum for resolving, through common effort, occasional differences among Africans and for charting out appropriate strategy for the African liberation struggle. In that connection, the role of the OAU in facilitating, among others, Zimbabwe's accession to independence is a case in point.

We must not allow minor differences amongst us to damage the desire of our peoples to forge ever closer friendly cooperation and mutual understanding. There is no doubt that the African peoples will continue to thread the path of unity, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

Long Live African Unity!

CSO: 4420

OFFICIAL DENIES ALLEGATIONS OF ARMS DELIVERY

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 28 Feb 81 pp 1,5

[Text] Addis Ababa (HNA)--The coordinated and carefully orchestrated propaganda currently waged by the recently installed administration in Washington was yesterday described here as a vicious design to isolate Socialist Ethiopia from the international community and thereby facilitate US interference in the internal affairs of this country.

Commenting on recent allegations by officials of the Reagan Administration linking Ethiopia and other countries with events in El Salvador, a spokesman for the Ministry of Information and National Guidance said these manoeuvres are "a thinly-veiled pretext for the U.S.'s impending intervention" in that troubled Central American Republic as well as Socialist Ethiopia itself.

Following is the text of the statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance:

"The recent allegations made by the American press through leaks by well-placed high officials of the new administration linking Socialist Ethiopia and other countries with events in El Salvador are a thinly-veiled pretext for Washington's impending intervention in that country.

"Washington's propaganda campaign is designed to create international public opinion that will be favourable for its interference in the internal affairs of El Salvador. It is a transparent justification for its military intervention in the Central American Republic in question. The government and people of Socialist Ethiopia are, naturally, sympathetic to the hopes and aspirations as well as the legitimate struggle of the oppressed people of El Salvador. It need hardly be pointed out that Socialist Ethiopia scrupulously adheres to the cardinal principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of any country. Allegations to the effect that Ethiopia and certain other progressive countries are responsible for current developments in that country are mere fabrications and totally groundless.

"The well-coordinated and orchestrated propaganda based on forged documents is designed to isolate Ethiopia from the international community and thereby facilitate U.S. interference in the internal affairs of this country. One reason why so much noise is being raised about the so-called delivery of arms to El Salvador is definitely to justify U.S. arms delivery to expansionist Somalia. This is in preparation for a direct military intervention in Ethiopia through the proven stooge of imperialism--the regime in Mogadisho--and is as such inimical to international peace and security."

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SEMINAR ENDS, COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 25 Feb 81 pp 1,5

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa (ENA)--The two-day International Youth Seminar co-sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association (REYA), held at Africa Hall wound up its deliberations yesterday by adopting a Final Document on broad ranging issues of national, regional and international concern.

The seminar, under the theme "The Role of Youth in the Struggle for the Consolidation of National Independence and Socio-Economic Development," was attended by delegates from 23 national, regional and international organizations of African and world youth from 19 countries.

After considering the constructive exchange of views by the participants on the experiences in the struggle of youth in the process of consolidating national independence and socio-economic endeavours of the developing countries and conducting wide discussions on the various papers presented in the course of the seminar, the participants noted with satisfaction that during the last few decades important and positive changes have occurred in the world. This was ascribed to the relentless struggle waged by the socialist countries, revolutionary and democratic forces, national liberation and democratic movements in capitalist countries, which resulted in the collapse of the colonial system and the birth of numerous independent states in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The participants expressed their militant solidarity with youth and peoples fighting in the scattered pockets of colonial rule, called for the intensification of the struggle for liberation waged by the ANC in South Africa, SWAPO in Namibia, the Polisario Front in Western Sahara, and the PLO in Palestine and stressed the necessity of further strengthening the solidarity with militant groups in those areas.

The participants described as a real encouragement for people pitted against imperialist exploitation the great socio-economic success achieved by the people of Vietnam, Cuba, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, the PDRY, Algeria, the Congo, Afghanistan and many others.

Full Mobilization of Youth

The Final Document adopted by the participants stressed the need for full mobilization of youth and peoples in the developing countries in the struggle for the consolidation of their national independence and the progressive and rapid transformation of their national economies.

To this end, the participants underlined the urgency for introducing drastic democratic and progressive socio-economic changes which, among other things, include the guarantee of full national sovereignty over the use of natural resources, state control of the basic means of production, introduction of radical agrarian reform and the development of industry and effective control over the activities of multinationals operating in these regions.

They appreciated the just and democratic character of the relationship between the developing countries and the socialist community of nations and lauded the increasing voluntary services of youth in the developing world in eradicating illiteracy and disease and mobilizing the masses towards progressive socio-economic transformation.

The participants condemned the recent military agreement between US imperialism and reactionary regimes in the Horn of Africa, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East directed against progressive governments of the PDRY and Socialist Ethiopia, the conspiracy of US imperialism with Israel and the reactionary Egyptian regime is clearly directed against the national liberation movements in the region especially against the Palestinian people and the Arab masses in general, the Document pointed out.

The Document also contained a note of appreciation to the ceaseless effort deployed by the socialist community, particularly the Soviet Union and by the democratic and progressive movements all over the world, towards eliminating the threat of war, putting an end to the arms race and enhancing the relaxation of international tension.

The participants appealed to youth and students of the world to fight against militarism, consolidate the struggle against arms race and for peace, justice, national independence and social progress. They also welcomed the new and important peace initiatives announced by the Soviet Union at the 26th Congress of the CPSU.

In conclusion, the seminar participants expressed gratitude to the Revolutionary Government, people and youth of Socialist Ethiopia for their hospitality and contribution to the success of the seminar.

CSO: 4420

SUGAR CANE PLANTATION EXPANSION FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 26 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Metahara (EI)--The Metahara Sugar Factory, 200 kms. East of here, works on a sugar-cane plantation of 5,641 hectares of land and is planning to expand the estate to 10,000 hectares. To materialize this plan, an extension work is going on at Abadir on 2,000 hectares of land.

This was disclosed to a team of journalists and media personnel during a visit to the factory last weekend.

A guide assigned to the journalists explained that good result is achieved from the cultivation only when there is adequate supply of water. In this regard, the Metahara Sugar Factory is at an advantage in that water for irrigation is easily obtained from the Awash River by way of gravitational diversion, he said. He noted that the factory which works with three to four thousand permanent and seasonal employees produces an average of three thousand quintals of sugar per day.

The guide revealed that the factory's maximum annual production so far was that of last year, which hit a 74,000 tons record, and said that earlier production did not exceed 59,000 tons.

Speaking about the byproducts produced in the factory (as published), he said that molasses is produced and exported to earn foreign currency. Besides, filter press mud is also obtained for use on the estate as fertilizer.

A worker on one of the machines in the factory said that almost all of the machines were installed when the factory was founded twelve years ago.

He said there is a problem of finding spare parts for the machines formerly imported from Holland.

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

YOUTH TO CUBA--Addis Ababa (ENA)--A total of 142 children whose parents had died in defence of the unity and territorial integrity of the motherland and the cause of the popular revolution, left here yesterday for the republic of Cuba to join schools opened there for Ethiopians. Another batch of 74 orphans will also leave during the week for Cuba. Comrade Col. Gebreyes Wolde-Hana, head of the main political department of Revolutionary Ethiopia's Revolutionary Army, bidding the children fare well during a ceremony at the Tadek Military Centre stated that Revolutionary Ethiopia would always remain indebted to those who have made sacrifices for her cause. He referred in this regard to the opportunities given at home and abroad to children whose parents heroically fell in various actions. He told the departing youngsters of the pains taken by Revolutionary Cuba to ensure the wellbeing and comfort of Ethiopian children there. Comrade Col. Gebreyes advised the children to emulate the discipline and seriousness of the Ethiopian children already in Cuba attending schools in the Isle of Youth. Andualem Kitaw, speaking on behalf of the youngsters expressed the children's joy for the opportunity to go to Cuba and appreciated the care given them by the revolutionary government. Comrade Mahari Maasho, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was present on the occasion. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 23 Feb 81 p 6]

TOBACCO EARNINGS DOWN--Addis Ababa (ENA)--Revenue from manufactured tobacco at the Addis Ababa Cigarette Factory during the first seven months of the third-round development campaign was nine per cent below the projected target, although production-wise there was a considerable increase. Speaking at a Sports and Literacy Day ceremony in the premises of the factory on Sunday, Comrade Getachew Abise, Acting General Manager of the Factory, said 846,975 kgs of tobacco products valued at 20,845,615 Birr were produced during the period under review compared to the targeted 823,401 kgs valued at 20,919,940 Birr. The nine per cent shortfall makes the Addis Ababa Cigarette Factory one of the least efficient in the industrial sector of the economy, it was pointed out. Comrade Getachew Abise recalled that during the second round development campaign the factory produced 10 per cent above the target in terms of revenue. He mentioned the scarcity of raw materials, the sporadic supply of available raw materials, and the difficulties involved in replacing old machinery with new ones as the major causes for the nine per cent decrease in projected income. Certificates were later handed over to workers who had completed a literacy course. Kebele youth artistic troupes enlivened the colourful sports festivals. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 24 Feb 81 p 10]

RETURNEES WELCOMED--Addis Ababa (ENA)--Thirty-eight Ethiopians who were living in the Sudan as refugees returned here yesterday in line with the call made to compatriots residing abroad by Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army. The call was made during his recent official visit to the Sudan. On arrival at Bole International Airport, the returnees were welcomed by Comrades of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 26 Feb 81 p 6]

MILITIA MEMBERS HONOURED--Addis Ababa (ENA)--Hero's medals, campaign emblems and certificates of revolutionary participation were handed over yesterday to Militia members, who along with the Revolutionary Army, routed internal and external enemies of the Revolutionary Motherland. The hero medals, campaign emblems and certificates of revolutionary participation were given to the Militia members by Comrade Colonel Gebreyes Wolde-Hanna, Head of the Main Political Department of the Revolutionary Army of Socialist Ethiopia and COPWE Central Committee member at a ceremony held at the National Palace. Present on the occasion were ministers, force commanders, COPWE Central Committee members and special invited guests. Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Col. Gebreyes noted that the heavy sacrifices paid by the gallant Militia to safeguard the Revolution and its gains and the reverberating victories it continues registering along broad fronts will hold prominent place in the annals of Ethiopian History. Comrade Col. Gebreyes said that Militia members who sustained various injuries while safeguarding the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Motherland are looked upon as precious daughters and sons of Revolutionary Ethiopia. He expressed conviction that they will come out heroes of socialist labour in the country's economic construction endeavour. Comrade Col. Afework Wolde-Michael, Commandant of the Militia Base on his part said that Socialist Ethiopia has the highest respect for those who bleed for the cause of the Revolution and the Motherland. [Excerpt] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 1 Mar 81 pp 1, 6]

POLITICAL CADRES SEMINAR--Assela--A seminar for production and political cadres of Arusi region ended here Tuesday. Comrade Sileshi Mengesha, COPWE Central Committee member and COPWE representative for Arusi region urged the cadres to put up extra effort to strengthen government and mass organizations, for socialist economic construction, for the dissemination of Marxist education and for the fulfilment of COPWE's mission. The cadres discussed in detail the present stage of the revolution and the tasks awaiting them in the future. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 26 Feb 81 p 6]

MENGISTU MEETING WITH CASTRO--Addis Ababa(ENA)--Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Chairman of the PMAC and of COPWE and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Army yesterday met and held talks in Moscow with Comrade Fidel Castro, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Council of State and of the government of the Republic of Cuba. According to PRENSA LATINA report, the meeting of Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile-Mariam with Comrade Fidel Castro, which took place in the residence of the Cuban delegation which is attending the 26th Congress of the CPSU, was held in a fraternal atmosphere. Present on the occasion of Comrade Chairman Mengistu's meeting with Comrade Fidel Castro were Comrade Fikre Selassie Wogderess, PMAC Secretary-General and COPWE Executive Committee Member and Comrade Berhanu Bayih, PMAC Standing and COPWE Executive Committee Member. Comrade Fidel Castro also held separate talks with Comrade Jose Eduardo Dos Santos President of Angola the same day in an equally fraternal atmosphere. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 27 Feb 81 pp 1,5]

DECREE ESTABLISHES NATIONAL DATA PROCESSING CENTER

Conakry HOROYA in French 25-31 Jan 81 p 24

[Decree "Providing For the Establishment of a National Data Processing and Management Center Within the Ministry of Planning and Statistics," issued by Ahmed Sekou Toure in Conakry on 10 Jan 81]

[Text] By Presidential Decree Number 031/PRG/81, dated 10 January 1981:

Article 1-There is hereby established within the Ministry of Planning and Statistics a government department called the "National Data Processing and Management Center."

Article 2-The National Data Processing and Management Center (CNIG) has as its objective the promotion and development of data processing in the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. In that context it is responsible for:

- advising the government as to the concept of the party-state's policy in the data processing area and making sure it is implemented;
- training and high level training of technical cadres at all levels in collaboration with the university and specialized institutions; and
- establishing an automated management system in the national economy by carrying out the work of national economic agencies on its computers.

Article 3-The CNIG is responsible for keeping on its computers the financial accounts of state enterprises and companies, offices, establishments and public services, joint ventures, and cooperatives in accordance with the national accounting plan. It will centralize the results which have been achieved and will furnish to the authorities concerned on their request the necessary information for making statistical use of these results.

Article 4-The CNIG shall be able, whenever it shall judge it necessary or whenever requested, to detail technical assistance missions to ministerial departments, public services, and state enterprises and companies.

Article 5-Only the CNIG shall be competent to study and make recommendations as to the chances of a state, private or joint enterprise acquiring and installing a computer.

Article 6--The CNIG is authorized to maintain ties for exchanging experiential information with other data processing and management centers and to provide itself with an up-to-date library in the areas of data processing and management.

Article 7--The CNIG shall be headed by a director general assisted by an assistant director general, both appointed by decree.

Article 8--The organization of the CNIG's operational structure will be the subject of an order by the prime minister responsible for planning and statistics.

Article 9--The present decree supersedes any previous contradictory measures and will be recorded and published in the JOURNAL OFFICIEL of the republic.

9631

CSO: 4400

COMMENTATOR ATTACKS 'JEUNE AFRIQUE' DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Conakry HOROYA in French 8-14 Feb 81 p 21

[Article by RTG: "More 'Siradiou,' More Lies"]

[Text] If someone is a man's sworn enemy, well, that is not too bad. But for someone to fight against dignity, against liberty, against historical truth, against his people, against his own family, that does not even classify as insanity, but it goes past the extreme limits of degeneracy. Such is the case of Minister Siradiou Diallo, brilliant liar, incorrigible man without a country, vile agent of imperialism, and morbid anti-Guinean, who now only lives on hatred and lies.

For a while it was believed that the sinister Siradiou was lacking in material, or rather, more accurately, there was the thought that his genius for lying had weakened. He had started to be forgotten; but this did not take into account the schizophrenia which makes this commonplace imperialist agent a despicably resourceful scribbler.

The renegade Siradiou has found the column he needs in the awful anti-working class publications that his masters publish. This is the "Confidential" column. In fact, it is under that "Confidential" heading that everything which cannot be verified is piled together for purposes of discrediting targets of the lying campaign that drum-beating imperialism and its lackeys carry out against the Guinean People's Revolution.

Fairly recently, and as if to say that he wants to wish his style a good new year in 1981, he wrote in his "Confidential" column the following wild imaginings, as if it were the most natural thing in the world to do so:

"Aboubacar Sompore, Guinea's ambassador to France, is asking to return to his country. The reason is that he is having trouble with his staff, who have not collected any salary for several months, and trouble with the French postal service which, because of not being paid, has cut off the embassy's telex, threatening to do the same for the telephone, in spite of pressures from the Quai d'Orsay."

You see who Siradiou is: a man who enjoys inventing lies like these about his people and his family by going through their diplomatic representation in a foreign country.

Damn it! What does he want, this hardened traitor, this despicable venal shady journalist who by using insidious methods of manipulating public opinion, and doing this in contradiction to the press's professional code of ethics, pours forth crude lies?

What demented dream can this mercenary writer be toying with by dragging his country, his people and his own family through the mud?

Why? Or more accurately, for what price--for we are talking about a mercenary, this traitor who has become a machine for turning out lying confidences--is he so sadistically wearing himself out fighting the facts and the actual events of history, that is to say the militant people of Guinea and their revolution?

Apparently because he had predicted that the ever-victorious ubiquitous diplomatic offensive methodically and intelligently carried out by the Guinean Revolution would only be a flash in the pan, this "oracle" finds himself having to justify his remarks by displays based on absurdity.

That is the mission of a mercenary writer! So then "for an old mule, a bridle out of gold."

Today, in fact, everyone knows that the effective initiatives and successes of the Guinean Revolution bother its incurable detractors who have told too many lies about Guinea, such as "Guinea is isolated from the world," "President Ahmed Sekou Toure cannot leave his country because he is unpopular," etc. etc. It is an old well-worn refrain.

Today, as they face history's implacable judgment, the little groups of degenerate anti-Guineans, of which Siradiou is in fact one of the ringleaders, are forced to attack Guinea tooth and nail.

It is well understood that by resorting to the devil's own devices in an attempt to tarnish the public image of the glorious Guinean Revolution and do harm to the immeasurable prestige and acknowledged authority of the great African leader, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Mister Siradiou and renegades of his kind are entertaining the absurd notion of stifling the Guinean regime, a regime which is still a bone stuck in the throat of imperialism.

To talk any more about vermin like Siradiou is not very seemly for us, we know. But when these vermin have reached the "Siradiou" stage of degeneracy, it is our duty as human beings, our humanitarian duty, to tell things as they are, or rather more specifically, to save the relatively gullible from lying darkness and sin.

Mister Siradiou, keep inventing your lies!

Keep casting slurs on your family, on your homeland, on your people!

Keep doing your dirty work in the service of imperialism! The militant people of Guinea, its party-state, its ever powerful revolution, and your family, yes, your own family, will be no worse off for it.

"People who dare to spit at the heavens just get their face dirty."

Ready for the Revolution!

9361

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

USSR DELEGATION DECEMBER VISIT--From 2-7 December a delegation from the USSR was in our country for a working visit. The delegation was led by Comrade Bally Yaskuliyev, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The visit was in the context of strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and our country. [Text] [Conakry HOROYA in French 11-17 January 81 p 49] 9631

CUBAN CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE--From Havana: On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the people's triumph over the mercenary forces which tried to take Guinea back to its execrable colonial past, I would like to send the Guinean people, the Guinean Democratic Party, and the Guinean Government the brotherly greetings of the people, the communist party and the government of Cuba. The events of 22 November 1970 demonstrate that only action by masses with fighting spirit and political maturity can crush the actions of the enemies of our peoples. I take this opportunity to express to you our joy at the recent celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Guinea and to remind you of our feelings of friendship and that we are prepared to continue to work to strengthen that friendship. Very truly yours, Fidel Castro Ruz, First secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and of the government of the republic of Cuba. [Text] [Conakry HOROYA in French 14-20 Dec 80 p 22] 9631

USSR CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE--From Moscow: I thank you sincerely for your warm congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. I share the desire you expressed to further strengthen the solidarity of our two peoples in the common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and racism, in order to have a peaceful future for our peoples. Leonid Brezhnev, secretary general of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. [Text] [Conakry HOROYA in French 11-17 Jan 81 p 14] 9631

FOREIGNERS' SHOPPING PRIVILEGES--Decree No 417, dated 3 September 1980. The President of the Republic, in consideration of constitutional law No 4 AN, dated 10 November 1958, promulgated by ordinance No 15, dated 12 November 1958; in consideration of law No 001/AL/75, dated 7 January 1975, which covers election of the President of the Republic; and in consideration of decree No 215/PRG, dated 1 June 1979, covering appointment of members of the President of the Republic's cabinet decrees: Article 1--An enterprise named Special Office of Commercialization (OSPEC) is established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs. Article 2--The Special Office of Commercialization is responsible for supplying foreign diplomats, specialists and residents with prime necessity food products (bread, fish, vegetables, meat, etc.). Conakry, 5 September 1980. Ahmed Sekou Toure. [Excerpt] [Conakry JOURNAL OFFICIEL DU PARTI-ETAT DE GUINEE in French 1 Sep 80 p 139] 8143

NEW MILITARY RANKS, PROMOTIONS AWARDED

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Feb 81 p 10

[Text] Late Thursday morning at the Amura barracks, Comrade Joao Bernardo Vieira (Nino), brigade commander and president of the Revolutionary Council, presided at the promotion ceremony for soldiers who served with distinction in the armed struggle for national liberation as brave fighters for the freedom of the country, and for those who demonstrated their courage and bravery in the unfolding of the events of 14 November.

Comrades Iafai Camara, Manuel Saturnino, Joao da Silva and Buota Nambatcha (all members of the Revolutionary Council), Lamine Sisse, Pedro Ramos, Jose Nan Kassa, Mamadu Alfa, Fore Nam Bitna, Jose Marques Vieira (Tchutchu) and Nhasse Nam Vera were promoted to the rank of first commander.

Promotions included 4 new commanders, 18 majors, 17 captains, 23 first lieutenants, 5 lieutenants and 6 sub-lieutenants. In the noncommissioned ranks, three soldiers were promoted to first sergeant, one to second sergeant, one to sergeant and five to private first-class.

Comrade Benghate Na Beate, member of the Revolutionary Council, was promoted from captain to major. Because of his firmness, courage and decision during the events of the 14 November Readjustment Movement, Private First-Class Carlos Melna was promoted to captain. On the night of the movement, it was Melna who drove Comrade Nino Vieira from his home to Amura in his tank.

It is noted that high-ranking officers of our armed forces will soon go to the interior of the country and to Marinha to preside over ceremonies to confer promotions for officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted men.

The Amura ceremony, which was also attended by Comrade Fidelis Cabral d'Almada, member of the party's CSL [Supreme Struggle Committee], opened with an address by Comrade Commissioner Paulo Correia. Speaking for the FARP [People's Revolutionary Armed Forces], he reaffirmed the armed forces' support for and fidelity to the goals of the Revolutionary Council, and assured that the armed forces would do everything possible to further the country's progress.

Speaking in turn, Brigade Commander Nino Vieira explained that these new commissions represent a readjustment within the FARP, aimed at correcting the injustices of the first act conferring military promotions, which took place in February 1980 during the celebration of the 16th anniversary of the Cassaca Congress. Those promotions created dissension in several units.

Vieira noted that the country's brave freedom fighters should be given the rightful places they had earned by their sacrifice and determination during the struggle for national liberation, and that the comrades who in one way or another took an active part in 14 November deserved commendation.

"We have to put our heads together to see how, day by day, we can improve the life of our soldiers. Little by little, if we give it serious thought, we can do something to raise our armed forces to the ever higher place they have won in the struggle," the Revolutionary Council president stressed.

Concluding the ceremony, Commander Kabi wished all the newly promoted officers courage and good work.

6362

CSO: 4401

READER CLAIMS CRIMINALS OF FORMER REGIME STILL AT LARGE

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Feb 81 p 2

[Letter from reader Liliane Salimatu]

[Text] The great euphoria has died down now, after the highly emotional moments experienced by the martyred people of this land as a result of the historic and patriotic 14 November Movement, the so-called "Readjustment" movement which culminated in the removal of Luis Cabral and his henchmen. Now it is time to go deeply into detailed analyses of every futile action and to judge those who were knowingly a party to the destruction of the most sublime values of our people, to the unbridled despotism and exploitation practiced not only by the president of the deposed regime and his closest followers but also by those who were not caught out on 14 November. Although these latter positively and fully collaborated with the deposed regime, they are once again, or rather remain, among our people, enjoying the same privileges as before and demagogically seeking more favored positions in the new society.

Today I am lifting my voice—which I consider the voice of the people—to demand that immediate measures be taken against these individuals, in the factories, hospitals, government offices, defense agencies, security, teaching establishments, hotels, rural areas and elsewhere, where they have always demonstrated their total connivance in the evil and corrupt designs of the despotic Cabral government.

Was it not in Farim that many of our brothers died, suffocated in a prison? What was the date? Who were the region and sector presidents in that zone then? Who was the security officer who, on orders or at his own discretion, put over 100 prisoners in a single cell? The answers come immediately. It was certainly not Tchutchu Azon, or Bascardini or Luis Cabral. The murderer must still be at large.

Was it not in Cantchungo that a mass execution of political prisoners occurred, perhaps the largest verified to date? Again, I ask: Who were the officials in that region and sector at that time? What was the date? For the love of God, don't tell me it was Bascardini or Andre Gomes, just because they cannot answer my question now. The person must be walking among the people now, in camouflage. I was not told then, and now I direct the question to anyone in a position to respond. Promising you will be hearing from me again soon, I remain, Liliane Salimatu.

6362

CSO: 4401

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

PORTUGUESE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE--A Portuguese ophthalmological team from the New University of Lisbon has been in Bissau since Wednesday. The team is headed by Professor Ferraz de Oliveira, and is here to continue the work begun in mid-1980, both in Bissau and in the interior of the country. Last year the ophthalmology mission carried out a broad program to track down cases of curable blindness and other eye diseases, in the schools and health centers in Bissau and other areas in the interior. It also reorganized the optical section of Farmedi (expansion unknown), and conducted further training for Guinea-Bissau cadres in this branch of medicine. This cooperation program is part of a large aid program granted to Guinea-Bissau by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. In addition to physicians and nurse-technicians, the team also includes an anatomist in ophthalmology, who will assist in the continued training of Bissau cadres in this field. The principal hospital center in Guinea-Bissau will receive a collection of works by Portuguese specialists and Portuguese translations of other works. (Text) [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 5 Feb 81 p 8] 6362

SWEDISH RICE AID--SIDA, the Swedish Agency for International Cooperation, has offered Guinea-Bissau 5,247 tons of rice to overcome the shortage of that grain in our country in recent months. We also note that the United States was the first country to offer emergency food assistance of 8,500 tons of rice, of which we have received only 1,000 tons. The rest should arrive in the middle of next month. [Excerpt] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 5 Feb 81 p 8] 6362

SWEDISH SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE--Last Tuesday in Bissau, in the BNC, an agreement was signed between Guinea-Bissau and SIDA [Swedish Agency for International Cooperation], providing for assistance to small and medium business in the amount of 23 million Swedish kroners (about 200 million Guinea-Bissau pesos). The agreement was signed by Comrade Victor Pereira Monteiro, representing Planning, and Sven-Ake Svensson, representing Sweden. The agreement provides for financial coverage for seven different activities up to the end of December of this year. SIDA will provide support for SOCOTRAM [Lumber Processing and Marketing Company], more precisely, financing for the sawmill operations, for the furniture industry (MACA), for the truck garage that should be completed next March, for construction of a ceramics plant (tiles and bricks) in Bafata, for rehabilitation and remodeling of the old ceramics factory in Bandin, and for the administration and planning of the metalworking factory. The agreement also provides a sum of \$150,000 for raw materials and consulting services for the shipyards, and to pay the 11 Swedish specialists for the various companies, including an advisor for the Department of Industry. (Text) [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Feb 81 p 2] 6362

CUBAN WOMEN'S MESSAGE--Marking 30 January, Day of the Woman in Guinea-Bissau, the Federation of Cuban Women sent a telegram of fraternal greeting to the National Women's Commission, with the following message: "Dear companions, on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the death of Ernestina Silva, we wish to send you a fraternal and revolutionary message. Titina was the model of the Revolutionary and Fighting Woman, who gave her all for freedom and independence. On this significant date, the Cuban women reaffirm their revolutionary friendship and solid support." [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Feb 81 p 2] 6362

BREAD SHORTAGE--For some time, owing to the shortage of wheat flour, there has been a bread shortage in Bissau, which has led to long lines at the bakeries. According to the Trade Commissariat, there was a break in the stock because the government was counting on a large supply of Yugoslavian wheat, which had been shipped to Cape Verde for grinding at the Moave mill. Owing to the events on 14 November, the plans were disrupted. Meanwhile, the commissariat and the BNC have been making efforts to solve the problem, specifically with the arrival of an initial shipment from Gambia. Incidentally, this supply has already been exhausted. [Excerpt] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Feb 81 p 10] 6362

USSR PROPAGANDA ASSISTANCE--In a ceremony last Thursday, the USSR presented three small trucks (of the ambulance-van type), equipped with film projectors and the necessary equipment to conduct political work in various districts of our capital and other points in the country. At the presentation ceremony, our party was represented by Comrade Tiago Aleluia Lopes, member of the CEL [Executive Struggle Committee] and chairman of the Committee for the Autonomous Sector of Bissau, and by Domingos Brito, member of the party secretariat. The Soviet Union was represented by Anatoly Bulanov, counselor of the Soviet Embassy on Bissau. Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Lopes expressed our deep gratitude for this gesture, calling it another proof of friendship and solidarity with our people. She wished great success for the 25th CPSU Congress, which will begin on 28 February. We note that a short time ago the Soviet Union sent Guinea-Bissau six jeeps, which have partially solved the problem of transportation for party activities in the country's eastern and southern regions. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 12 Feb 81 p 3] 6362

CSO: 4401

REGIME SAID TO BE ON ALERT FOR DISSIDENCE

Dakar AFRICA in French Feb 81 pp 27, 28

[Article: "Letter From Liberia: Where is Sergeant Doe Going?"]

[Text] Because the "Americos," who are descendants of slaves taken back to Liberia as colonizers at the beginning of the 19th century, had picked up Biblical lore when they were on American soil, they were convinced they had the Old Testament God who became the father of Christ on their side.

Out of a thousand possible quotations we will only mention the one of Tolbert's when a few days before his death he was threatening the opposition with the wrath of Providence. This was in the National Assembly, where, instead of talking to those listening to him in terms of law, the spiteful pastor preferred preaching: "You have nothing to fear. God is with us." A few days afterwards, in accordance with the myths of his faith, he met his Maker in heaven above.

Meanwhile, the lowly rank and file here below, whose secular prayers had finally been answered by God, were making Sergeant Doe king. But what about since then?

It is hard to believe that after this initial act of justice performed by the hand of man the Creator could possibly have come back to walk on this corner of the earth. For, once again, colossal disillusionment is quite apparent. But how can one be surprised that a master sergeant who is capable of striking down a tyrant then finds himself lacking in knowledge of the art of government?

Everything has been moving in the direction of anarchy, starting with the circumstances of the regime's downfall in a frenzied outburst which was only too ready to be continued.

There has been little talk about this since it was, in a sense, a certain kind of justice. But aside from the fact that the killings done in a very official way, which are known to have numbered 13, went beyond the verdict of the military tribunal which had only pronounced four death sentences--aside from this, there was also harassment of rich people, of aristocrats who were practically strung up, and of whites from a number of mining and other companies. People were forcibly dispossessed and there were illegal occupations; meanwhile "Americos" were making it to underground hiding places or, as soon as it was possible, abroad. There are probably 12,000 more or less voluntary exiles from among this wealthy layer of society, which is a generous count since there were not even that many adults in the population who

had a lot of money. In any case this is the emigration of an elite. It would have been quite beneficial if it had been the rascals who were replaced, but over the years whenever the system had promoted any "natives" to positions requiring knowledge or management, most of them were petty clerks racing to catch up by the end of the month, lawyers without clients for whom leather briefcases were all their dignity, and journalists who were eloquent but lacked opinions.

All of this has gotten lost sight of at the top in a mix of boisterousness and excitement which, however, has lacked real direction or party principles.

An Indecisive Government

The military leadership under Doe is found to be characterized by two divergent tendencies: authority is becoming both personalized and collegial. Since the two tendencies balance each other out, if one can put it that way, the leadership has ended up with a seedbed of mini-leaders in uniform, each one having a little group of followers and a small area of authority.

But the danger does not lie in the rapidly promoted ill-mannered corporals who are the picturesque surface layer of the situation.

The danger lies in this group's inability to move along a track, to give indication of an orientation, and to thereby obtain a basis of consent for its authority. People put up with it although it does not really inspire respect and confidence, since Sergeant Doe has played around with power more than he has exercised power with awareness of his ends and means.

Doe's whims, like his threat to imprison the members of the national soccer team in case they lost, are disturbing but are amusing even so. People are much less amused when he orders citizens to pay in cash a tax equivalent to 2 months out of their 12-month salaries. This is singularly unimaginative, and, let us not shrink from putting it all together, under Tubman and Tolbert a similar civic tax was the government's standard recourse. In fact, one of the signs of change awaited impatiently, and the only one of value to a salaried worker, was that for the first time he was meant to escape being fleeced. Alas!

It is true that the economic situation is bad, as it is everywhere, but it is perhaps a little worse than elsewhere. Business, what remains of it, is reluctant to replenish inventories; the local middle-class, which had begun to invest profits in business, profits it made because of its status as a political class, has let that all go by the boards. This is less out of revenge than out of fear. The powerful Lebanese, pseudo-businessmen who got rich through influence-peddling, folded up when they were left to their own devices. Small-timers struggle along half-stocked, one hand on their passport.

The very least one can say about all this is that even if on the diplomatic level the regime has scored some points, since it is no longer a target for African or other governments who have decided to destabilize it, the good effects of that policy have not been transferred to the economy. The United States has lent some money—a little, not much—but the mining companies are hesitating instead of forging ahead. However, their investments are so extensive that for them there is no question of clearing out. If they are waiting for another government team, they are risking a prolonged wait, for Sergeant Doe is particularly good at tracking down potential opposition.

It is not easy to count up the coups which are said to have been attempted against the Redemption Council since April. During the first days there were the Tolbert die-hardes, who, it might be added, were more panicked than organized and were brought to their senses by a little shooting. Then there were sporadic revolts, apparently by superior officers who were not very much reconciled to putting themselves under the command of mere non-commissioned officers. In addition, in a tribal framework in which the attack on the Palace seems to have been led exclusively by Guere-Wobe and their Kru and Glebo allies, it should not be surprising that some rebellion has shown up in an army whose rank and file was long provided by the Iona.

Whether it is or not, the regime gives the impression of being on alert. The curfew from 0100 to 0600 is still in force. It is true that Liberia is not New York and that from 0100 to 0600 only prostitutes and their customers are walking around town. Nevertheless, the ban is psychologically discomforting.

The Sekpeny Affair

But the last issue that catches one's attention and makes it possible to form a fairly clear judgment about Doe's personality and the regime's orientation is the Sekpeny affair.

Brigadier General Frank Sekpeny is the military court president who let the information filter out that the special tribunal had condemned to death not 13 but only four of the persons executed.

Sekpeny was not relieved of duty but this overly honest brigadier did not stop being rebellious. On some occasions he has been heard saying that the overthrow of an unjust regime had not taken place just to have a revival of its injustice, and that he, for his part, had decided not to suffer the fate of the former minister, Cheyson, who was shot in disgrace for having administered injustice.

Now then, this stubborn general is a prisoner today, with the double accusation of having concealed evidence and of having delayed sentencing on certain prisoners. That item is obviously a matter of military prisoners variously accused of plotting. It is probably even, in certain cases, a question of dissident members of the Redemption Council itself, such as Capt Jerry Abass who, although arrested, was able to avoid a sentence, but who was dismissed from the Council and from the army and is currently in exile.

There is no desire here to dwell too heavily on the dissidence involved in this situation, which, after all, is fairly common after a successful coup. But the observation should definitely be made that, owing to the government military tribunal's operating without its principal judge, trials which were underway have been broken off. Now perhaps that was the objective, for in the case of nine officers accused of treason, a case widely known and commented on, the trial could be embarrassing. Did not one of the accused, Air Force Colonel Arthur Bedell, call as a witness Sergeant Doe himself? In fact it would seem that this Colonel Bedell, discharged from preventive detention by the tribunal, was summarily rearrested by order of the Council at the same time as was Judge Sekpeny. To put it another way, Sergeant Doe, in what is a repeat of his coup against the "13," is having a freed man rearrested and is dismissing the tribunal's president. This is a little more than just the exercise of imperial fiat or an overruling action, even for someone who seems to believe he has become "Paramount Chief" in a clan-oriented republic without right of appeal.

NEWS OF MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATES

134 New Officers

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 2 Feb 81 p 2

[Excerpts] Antsirabe--Saturday morning the Antsirabe Military Academy officially graduated 134 new officers in the "29 March 1947" class during a ceremony which was called "Yandresena" or "Victory 1981." The head of the government, Desire Rakotoarijaona, presided over this ceremony, which was marked by the 134 new second lieutenants receiving their epaulettes in the presence of CSR [Supreme Revolutionary Council] members Arsene Ratsifehera, Etienne Mora, Jean de Dieu Randriantanany, Ferdinand Jaotombo and Max Marson. The man in charge of the Defense Ministry, Guy Sibon, and the chiefs of staff of the People's Army, the Zandarimarian-Pierenena, and the Academy, led by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Ralahy, were also present. The ceremony was started off by the dedication of the sixth class of the combined arms platoon bearing the name of the Tanala nationalists' king Andriampanoa. Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Jaotombo was the ceremony's sponsor. The ceremony also went on to dedicate the Academy's 12th class, called "30 December 1975," sponsored by Colonel Rabeony.

Antsirabe Cadets

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 11 Feb 81 p 2

[Text] Toamasina--Last Wednesday afternoon, 5 February, Joseph Albert Lanona, secretary general of the Administrative Committee, seconded by Modeste Eugene Mbelomasina, assistant secretary general of the Administrative Committee, received in his office a brigade of 20 officers in the 11th class of the Antsirabe Military Academy, which graduated a few days ago. The officers came to make a courtesy call. They were led by Lieutenant Colonel Jonah, People's Army commander of the faritany of Toamasina; a supervisory officer accompanies the brigade during informational trips.

Lieutenant Colonel Jonah, the first to speak, thanked the secretary general who, in spite of his weighty responsibilities, had been happy to receive the student officers. Then he spoke about the goals of their trip. He said they had been there since Saturday 31 January on an informational trip which was to last until the end of February. They were going to visit the fivondronanas of Vatomandry, Fenerive-Est, Sainte-Marie and Vavatenina. In each faritany there is a brigade like this one taking an informational trip. He explained that on their return to Antsirabe the student officers will each be making their choice of service between the AP and the ZP.

In responding to the lieutenant colonel, Joseph Albert Lanona thanked him very much. He also thanked the student officers for having come to Toamasina on an informational trip.

He said, "Previously you were only soldiers. Now, with our new structure, not only are you meant to defend our country but also you are 'soldier producers.' For this reason your visit to Toamasina is a good thing because its 'faritany' is not only, because of its port, an exceptionally fine communications gateway to overseas, but also it is the 'faritany' with the greatest production of coffee, cloves, vanilla, pepper, etc." The secretary general went on, "It should be emphasized that the 'faritany' has many fruits such as bananas, oranges, litchia, pineapples, etc." He then talked about the "faritany's" boundaries, its industries, its cooperatives, its ores, its road infrastructure, its food supplies, and the decentralized community system. At the end he said, "You see that the Toamasina 'faritany' is Madagascar's rice granary and its oil and gasoline depot."

The visit of the student officers lasted 30 minutes.

9611

CSO: 4400

FRANCO-MALAGASY COOPERATION EXAMINED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 7, 9 Feb 81

[Interview: "French Ambassador Campredon Sums Up Results of Franco-Malagasy Cooperation"]

[7 Feb 81, pp 1, 3]

[Excerpts] His Excellency Jean Pierre Campredon, French ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar since 7 October 1970--the day he presented his credentials to President Didier Ratsiraka--is preparing for his final departure from Madagascar. Thursday afternoon the French diplomat paid a farewell visit to the chief of state. This morning he will be received in Mahazorivo by Prime Minister Desire Rakotoarijaona.

Precisely like his predecessors, the regretted Andre Roger and Pierre Hunt, Jean Pierre Campredon has contributed to the improvement of Franco-Malagasy relations in recent years. Currently, French aid to Madagascar is the equivalent of the sum tota' of all other aid granted on a bilateral basis.

In the course of an interview with this newspaper, His Excellency Jean Pierre Campredon drew up a short summary of his stay in Madagascar, which totaled 850 days and a few hours, and of the result of several bilateral agreements. All in all, he found his stay fruitful and pleasant.

[Question] Mr Ambassador, could you describe the impressions you will retain from this stay in Madagascar?

[Answer] My impression will be one of happiness. Yes, it was a happy, a very happy stay, both for me and for my family, both on the personal and on the professional level.

To a French diplomat Madagascar is one of our most appreciated embassies, for it is one of the most complete ones in terms of the number of central services and consulates and the available personnel. So much for the apparatus. On the working level, however, there is nothing more fascinating to a diplomat such as myself than to adapt such an instrument to the country where he is stationed, make it useful and maximally effective both for the benefit of France, this goes without saying, and for that of the entire state of Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, and the 10 million Malagasy people. My inspiring task, therefore, was to improve the apparatus I headed in order to continue to improve its adequacy in terms of

France and your country, thus making it, with every passing day, more credible, more reliable and more useful and, I would add, more obvious to all Malagasy people.

This task was made easy for me by the consistently friendly reception of the president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar and the high state officials throughout my stay. Thanks to them I was able to gain a thorough understanding of the extent and difficulty of your problems. The high distinction awarded to me is inestimable.

[Question] In the light of the last Antananarivo meeting of the mixed Franco-Malagasy commission, it may be said that relations between France and the DRM are good and even exemplary. Should Madagascar request it, in the course of future meetings, would France be politically and economically disposed to participating in some "presidential" projects considered to be both extensive and of great socio-economic impact such as Bemolanga, uranium, etc?

[Answer] As you say yourself, this action was expressed, first of all, through cooperation. Furthermore, in addition to its multiple aspects, there is another area in which our activities, even though they may be less visible and less known, are no less evident: the field of diplomacy itself, i.e., the area of political relations between our two countries and, particularly, with our two chiefs of state. This political area is as important as could be and, if I may say so, it is the most noble in international life and in relations between countries. Here again I would like to express my profound satisfaction for the friendship between the Malagasy and French nations.

To go back to your question regarding cooperation, allow me to restate the fact that the last meeting of the mixed commission, held in Antananarivo, on the ministerial level, was a total success. You described it in your newspaper, providing extensive details and figures which I shall not repeat. I can tell you that every year France spends in Madagascar and for Madagascar five billion Fmg to carry out the projects requested by your state, covering a variety of areas such as education, youth training, rural development, infrastructure and equipment, the agro-industrial and mining sectors, scientific research, health, youth, sports, etc. Furthermore, you have the services of 564 French volunteers, four-fifths of whom are teaching in Malagasy schools. Our cultural cooperation, less known perhaps, is nevertheless quite substantial: there are 371 Malagasy scholarships in our universities and 188 scholarship trainees. This year our aid to education, in terms of textbooks alone, will total 225 million Fmg.

Finally, you are asking me about the major "presidential" projects. Indeed, we discussed them frequently and consider them extremely interesting, for their purpose is to make you ever more independent economically and, at the same time, supply us with a percentage, even though relatively small, of energy of which France is terribly short. Naturally, this applies to petroleum, in which one of our companies is interested but, above all, to the Sakoa coal for whose survey and exploitation my country has submitted specific proposals to your government and for which we have great expectations. However, these major projects require quite substantial financing and we would like to be joined by other countries in their development. Thank God, France no longer considers your country its preserve, and we will never consider ourselves adequate to develop your substantial potential resources. We are already closely cooperating with you in the extraction of your chromium ore and are studying the Soalala iron ore deposits. I believe that other countries are interested in the uranium.

Your president has also involved us in a major soybean project. This is a major plan which is being developed: there will be two large areas: one in Betsileo and the other in the midwest. I could also mention several studies which are underway on the promotion of several big agroindustrial projects, as well as our technical assistance in the cultivation of coffee and cotton, and our aid to the rural areas and to your marvelous peasant population, which is the basic element of your nation and an essential factor in your economy.

[Question] How does the French side feel about settling the final stumbling blocks in Franco-Malagasy relations, such as the various islands we claim from France. Are there other areas of disagreement between the two countries?

[Answer] The question of the Malagasy claim on the four small scattered islands of the Mozambique channel is not, in my view, a major matter, and it is my belief that it will be settled in the course of time.

[Question] In the past few years there have been no new French investments in Madagascar. Your country was satisfied with retaining a leading position in this area. Has that been the consequence of international conditions or a lack of interest?

[Answer] Even though ambiguous, your question is entirely pertinent, for it allows me to give you some details unknown to your readers.

One of my concerns has been not to leave out French business circles from the policy of intensive investments as defined by your president.

Therefore, initially, we tried to explain to French economic circles the new economic structures of your country.

Shortly after President Ratsiraka's visit to Giscard d'Estaing at the end of 1978, a meeting of 200 businessmen was held at the French Foreign Trade Center, in the course of which the outline of the 1978-1980 plan was submitted. Let us also not forget that many French heads of enterprises or bankers took part in the inaugural flight of the Boeing 747. Finally, in this area, a conference-discussion was held at the end of 1979 at the National Council of French Employers--the CNPF--attended by my friend Henri Raharijaona, the Madagascar ambassador to Paris. A discussion was held on the Malagasy Investment Code in terms of its connection with the Socialist Charter.

Such a policy of information has been very fruitful in two areas: direct investments, first, and loans to the economy. second.

[Question] Could you explain?

[Answer] Let us speak of investments: Allow me to cite on this subject the words of the Malagasy chief of state in his answer to the dean of the diplomatic corps in the course of the expression of best wishes, on 16 January 1981, at which I was present: He asserted that extensive investments in productive sectors will be continued and emphasized the unprecedented effort in the country's economic history in the field of investments, totaling 20 percent of the gross national product, 80 percent of which was accounted for by the nationalized sector. The French contribution is playing a positive role in the balance of this amount.

The nationalization policy has positively not obstructed this type of financing, for the potential of the Malagasy companies which involved French participation has been developed so adequately that we have witnessed a real redeployment of these enterprises. Loyally observing the decisions of the administrative councils, the French stockholders have contributed their quota to the requested financial effort by contributing to capitalization increases, the growth of production capacities, and the expansion of plants. Not to mention the capital; look, for example, at the way the city of Antsirabe has developed its industrial structures.

[9 Feb 81 pp 1, 3]

[Excerpts] The private sector is not limited in the least to this type of participation, for as was stated by the chief of state, participation in a national hydrocarbon company should be achieved through the intermediary of a French state petroleum company.

Substantial efforts have already been made. However, a developing country needs extensive and relatively inexpensive aid. My constant concern has been to include this aid within the objectives of the Malagasy authorities without interfering in domestic affairs, so that it may extensively contribute to the implementation of these objectives and to the development of the country.

Not to mention the operations of the Aid and Cooperation Fund, which I discussed elsewhere, let me mention the efforts of the Central Economic Cooperation Bank and the obligations assumed by the French treasury along the line of the Coface credit terms.

Thus, the Central Bank has contributed so far 18 billion Fmg to the country's development, specifically in the railroads, and increased its annual loans five-fold.

As to the Coface loans, over a 27-month period their amount was increased by a factor of 16. Let me remind you that such loans come with a competitive interest rate which is below the world's rate of inflation and, for this reason, have been acerbically criticized by international circles. They were granted, in particular, to the public sector and the socialist companies: the transportation, food industry, energy, machine, electrical, and processing industrial sectors.

Let us also mention the contribution of French banks which, through short-term loans, have facilitated Madagascar's purchases abroad of essential products in the food and energy areas.

Within this entire range of French financial contributions no sector has been ignored. This has been a contribution to the implementation of the government's plan and to the implementation of the state's targets.

[Question] What is the status of trade between France and Madagascar?

[Answer] Franco-Malagasy trade parallels Madagascar's economic development, for Malagasy exports to France have remained in the area of 20-21 billion Fmg (one-quarter of Madagascar's total exports). Imports from France have increased in value adequately: + 3.5 percent in 1978 compared with 1977, and + 25.6 percent the following year (43.5 billion Fmg in 1979).

French exporters were particularly active in the field of equipment (machine/electrical), agriculture and transportation (railroads, motor vehicles).

In order to compensate for the trade imbalance, our sales were proportioned to a great extent in accordance with credit facilities (loans by the CCCE, subsidized Coface loans, bank advances, etc).

This has facilitated the medium-length financial burdens of Madagascar. This contribution to the development of the country must be added to the aid granted by the Aid and Cooperation Fund (unrepayable grants and subsidies).

[Question] Do you agree with our wish to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace?

[Answer] The idea of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace is not new, as you know, and is not the first time that your president has raised it. However, the most topical question now and the plan of your president to submit it to a meeting on the level of heads of states, to be held next year in Tananarive, has always seemed to me to be an extremely good and interesting initiative. As you know, the president of the French republic accepted it immediately with great willingness. What makes this project even more interesting is that the agenda will not be limited to problems of the "Indian Ocean--a zone of peace," and that the chiefs of state of the "industrialized countries" who have not met collectively with the chiefs of state of "less advanced countries" for a number of years will have many subjects to discuss, is this not so? The North-South relations which are a constant French concern could only benefit from such a summit meeting.

[Question] Could you address a few words to the French community in Madagascar?

[Answer] I thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the French community in Madagascar and to do so through your daily newspaper, which is regularly read by all the members of the community.

In the course of a few years our community has declined by one-half. Currently, it numbers about 18,000 people. I can affirm that those among my compatriots who have remained in Madagascar and those who have come here since the founding of the DRM have done so most willingly. They are inspired by the unquestionable desire to participate in your development. All of them, men and women, voluntary workers, physicians, missionaries, businessmen or technicians of all kinds, all of them have a deep attachment for this great island and are working with a feeling of absolute respect for your institutions.

In the case of the most deprived among them, France has set up a system of aid for repatriation which, promoted by our excellent consuls, has been very helpful to them. Our consuls are also in close contact with our delegates representing the Higher Council of French People Abroad.

As I wish them goodbye, I would like to thank all my compatriots for having been in close touch with my assistants and with myself, and to ask them to remain loyal to their Malagasy friendships and to this country to which, I can testify, they are deeply attached. Finally, I would like to encourage them not to fail in their electoral duty in our next April-May presidential elections.

MADAGASCAR

JAPANESE DEVELOPMENT GIFT, ASSISTANCE REPORTED

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 28 Jan 81 pp 1, 2

[Article: "New Japanese Gift of 500 Million FMC"]

[Text] The official exchange of documents relating to a gift amounting to 500 million FMC [Malagasy francs] from the Japanese Government to the Malagasy Government took place yesterday afternoon between Minister of Foreign Affairs Christian Remi Richard and His Excellency Kazuhiko Furusawa during a ceremony which was called "simple but which has become traditional" by the head of our diplomatic establishment.

On this occasion Richard referred back to a passage of the speech he had made at the close of the ceremony when he was greeted by the diplomatic corps with best wishes for this year. It was with regard to our natural resources: "We have many natural resources which are worth exploiting. We must take advantage of all our capabilities with the help of friendly countries."

At this point the minister, Christian Remi Richard, thanked Japan for its cooperation along these lines. Specifically with regard to the subject of that particular private meeting, he said that "the gift of 500 million FMC from the Japanese Government is greatly appreciated by the Malagasy people and the Revolutionary Authority. It is a gift which encourages the activities of decentralized communities. Live-stock, fishing and agriculture are very important sectors in a country like Madagascar. In fact, the exact impact of the Japanese assistance is on each of these three areas of activity.

Let us remember that in the space of one year total financial aid granted by the Japanese Government--in non-reimbursable gifts--is around 2.5 billion FMC. Added to this are loans which at the present time total nearly 12 billion FMC. With the 500 million FMC we are talking about, we will be buying a 25-ton fishing boat, 37 small craft, three transport vehicles, assorted refrigeration equipment and fishing gear.

This new action taken by the Japanese Government comes at a time when, for example, at the Military Development Committee's last meeting there was much discussion about promoting maritime fishing, an area of activity which has been insufficiently developed up to now and which, however, is not a negligible source of food for the people, and exports from which, in parallel fashion, are an important source of foreign exchange.

Madagascar is an island and that in itself is enough to understand the thousand and one possibilities presented to us in the area of maritime fishing. In a highly talented way His Excellency Kazuhiko Furusawa expounded on this "predisposition:" "The seafaring ancestors of the Malagasy people--the Indonesians--must certainly have acquired highly sophisticated techniques in fishing, oceanography, navigation and shipbuilding. However, it is interesting to observe that after having explored the areas in the interior of the Grande Ile and after finally settling in the Hauts-Plateaux, the majority of these immigrants must have felt satisfied with their paradisiacal life in a temperate climate, with an abundance of rice and zebu, to the point of almost forgetting the seagoing life, fishing, and the art of sailing."

Yes, but rice and zebu are running short these days because, in the meantime, the Malagasy population has increased. So today we must turn to the sea. The Japanese diplomat also mentioned a famous quote of King Andrianampoinimerina's which regains all of its significance in our time: "Ny ranomasina no valamparihiko (the sea will be the threshold of my ricefield)." This evocative touch earned the diplomat congratulations from the minister at the end of the speeches.

Here again His Excellency Kazuhiko Furusawa provides a just reminder that Madagascar's present territory does not end at the coastlines:

"Beyond your 12-mile territorial waters you have 200 miles of Exclusive Economic Zones." But there is no need to go that far. Right next to our coasts we already have tuna, bonito, mackerel, not to mention shrimp, crayfish, and shellfish: in short, fish galore!

And then, as the Japanese ambassador emphasized yesterday with a certain sense of humor, "Fishing can be developed at low cost, in the very short term, and with much less in the way of investment than is needed for certain mineral resources. You do not have to build a road to get to the ore sites. The sea is the highway and you just have to sail on it. It must not be forgotten either that Japan already buys fish from you as does the United States. This is from Mahajanga, via SOMAPECHE [Malagasy Fishing Company?] which, besides, conducts its operations with technical cooperation from a Japanese company. Japan is prepared to expand these kinds of commercial exchange. According to statistics, Japanese people consume 34 kg of fish per year per person while Malagasy people consume 6!

In short, Japanese-Malagasy cooperation is starting off well this year.

9631

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

ANTI-BANDA DISSIDENT GROUP--Dar Es Salaam, Sunday.--Scattered groups opposed to Dr Kamuzu Banda have united to create a formidable resistance to the Malawian leader's regime, a leading dissidents leader announced here today. Leader of the Malawi Freedom Movement (MAFRIMO), Mr Orton Chirwa issued a statement here announcing that he had been requested by "neutral" Malawians in exile in Tanzania, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique, Europe and the Americas to convene a unity meeting for all groups opposed to Dr Banda's rule. He was preparing the ground work for what he said was a crucial meeting which would change the entire political history of Malawi just as the history of Uganda had been reshaped. Invitation letters for participants to the meeting to be held somewhere in East or Central Africa, were being drafted, but declined to state who was going to foot the bill. The former Malawian justice minister predicted that Dr Banda's rule would topple itself by its maverick internal policies where the masses are daily harassed. Leaders of Dr Banda's opposition groups include Dr Kanyama Chiume, a Dr Mpaketi and Mr Willie Chokani. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 2 Mar 81 : 1]

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

PRIME MINISTER POSSIBLE—Gen Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, is authorized to have the services of a prime minister. The congress of the UDPM (Democratic Union of Malian People), the single and constitutional party, did in fact give this authorization to the Malian chief of state by means of a resolution adopted at the end of its deliberations. The naming of the prime minister will be left to the discretion of the Malian president. The congress also authorized Gen Moussa Traore to proceed "with renewal of all the party's organizations within appropriate time frames." On the other hand, the congress voted to maintain the ban on holding more than one position in the party and government. Furthermore, the Malian chief of state offered the opinion that the congress "had cleared the way" for Mali to have "a national party within which all factions will express their views, a party which will work on evaluation of the country's problems without quarter and will seek appropriate solutions for them." [Text] [Libreville L'UNION in French 14-15 Feb 81 p 5] 8143

CSO: 4400

PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

Port Louis THE NATION in French 29 Jan 81 p 4

[Interview with Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, date and place not given]

[Text] The question period was the occasion for the Prime Minister to clarify many points on which journalists insisted. Here is a summary of that dialogue:

[Question] Did you consult the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party] before proceeding to the nomination of two parliamentary secretaries?

[Answer] The Government was informed. Besides, there is to be a meeting of the three parties in my office tomorrow.

[Question] When will the general elections be held?

[Answer] Parliament's mandate expires on 20 December. It will be before that or afterwards. That is for me to decide.

[Question] Do you think it was advisable to increase the number of parliamentary secretaries?

[Answer] I think the Government is doing good work. The two parliamentary secretaries will have an enormous contribution to make. They have been assigned to two important ministries.

[Question] How do you reconcile those nominations with your refusal to grant a year-end bonus?

[Answer] You cannot compare those different things. The bonus was granted to all workers in the private sector. Productivity must increase.

[Question] You say the MCM is communist. What do you think of the two new members?

[Answer] They have always been democrats, men of good will. The Labor Party preaches liberty and social democracy.

[Question] At the start of your career, were you not labelled a communist?

[Answer] There is no place for communists in Mauritius. We have a mixed economy; we are in a democratic country.

[Question] You speak of achievements in the matter of housing. Do you know that a year after the cyclone people are living in hovels?

[Answer] Excuse me. There have been three cyclones in a few months. Circumstances have been very difficult.

[Question] What are you doing for the unemployed?

[Answer] We are recruiting as much as possible.

[Question] Is it not time to go ahead with municipal elections?

[Answer] Certainly; they will be held.

[Question] A senior minister has criticized members of the government. What do you think?

[Answer] Perhaps he expressed certain opinions in advance and wanted to move faster. We shall try to move with him, at the same pace.

[Question] What do you expect from your relations with the United States?

[Answer] Relations with the United States? I expect nothing. I expect much from Mauritians.

[Question] Are your "cooled" relations with India due to your foreign policy?

[Answer] Our relations with India are still good. You don't know what you're saying. Who knows where Berenger picked up that news?

[Question] You have spoken of MMM dictatorship?

[Answer] The Labor Party is social democratic. It is the party which allows you to open your mouth and say what you think.

[Question] Rumors are circulating to the effect that the CAM [Moslem Action Committee] will enter the elections alone?

[Answer] My government does not function on the basis of rumors.

[Question] You have spoken of the new members as men of good will. Are there others in the MMM?

[Answer] If they wish to come, we shall welcome them.

[Question] Are you considering going to the United States?

[Answer] If we can, we will go.

[Question] Would there be a reshuffling?

[Answer] If necessary, it will be done.

[Question] What do you mean by 'necessary'?

[Answer] That will depend on circumstances.

[Question] What is the agenda for your London visit?

[Answer] It will be an official visit. We will discuss all questions of common interest regarding politics, economics, or students. Our relations with England have always been good.

[Question] A newspaper has spoken of the holding of elections in the latter half of 1982?

[Answer] Newspapers are free to publish what they like. It's me that decides.

[Question] Does the constitution permit you to hold elections after December 1981?

[Answer] Yes, certainly.

[Question] When will the North Airport project begin?

[Answer] Very soon.

[Question] Where are you with the discussions for an electoral alliance of the PT [Labor Party] with the PMSD?

[Answer] Sir Harold: The alliance exists. Those are family matters, miss.

SSR: We are working together. When the time comes, there will be a manifesto. But let me tell you that only stability serves Mauritian interests. Ideology does not lead far. In Mauritius, you have what you want. In other countries, even essentials are lacking.

[Question] Don't you think there is flagrant economic disparity in Mauritius?

[Answer] The disparity is not in Mauritius what it is elsewhere. Here, we can live together.

FORMER MMM MEMBERS JOIN LABOR PARTY

Venkatasamy, Jundooosing Take Office

Port Louis THE NATION in French 29 Jan 81 p 4

[Text] Vijay Venkatasamy and Vijay Jundooosing, former MMM deputies, took the oath yesterday as parliamentary secretaries to the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, respectively. The ceremony took place in the morning room of the Chateau de Reduit and was presided by Governor General Sir Dayendranath Burrenchobay.

All leading Labor Party figures wished to be present at the oath-taking ceremony: Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Sir Satoom Boodell, Sir Harold Walter, and Sir Kher Jagatsingh, as well as the other ministers and deputies and the two parliamentary secretaries Harish Ramphul and Clarol Malherbe. The PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party] was represented by its chairman, Minister of Justice Paul Cheong Leung.

Following the ceremony the members of the government congratulated the new parliamentary secretaries.

Vijay Jundooosing was accompanied by his wife, mother, and brother. Also noted was the presence of Nuvin Jokhoo, chairman of MMM regional committee no. 9, as well as several Jundooosing supporters. Venkatasamy was accompanied by his wife and son.

The two new parliamentary secretaries were very relaxed and chatted pleasantly with their new colleagues.

New Officials Denounce MMM Intrigues

Port Louis THE NATION in French 30 Jan 81 p 4

[Text] By joining first the government, and then the Labor Party, Vijay Jundooosing and Vijay Venkatasamy wish to help bring about changes, to the benefit of all Mauritians. They are not acting to further their personal interests, and the MMM will do everything to destroy its credibility by

showing its ugly face of dictatorship. For that reason, and since they cannot work effectively alone, they have preferred to join a democratic party. But they have not even spoken of possible payoffs, and so reproach the PSM (Malagasy Socialist Party), which has solicited some from the MPM, for speaking of public 'morality'.

Speaking to journalists yesterday, Jundooing said that he had consented to work in a key sector with Sir Sateoa Boolell at a time when agricultural diversification is assuming greater importance. He recalled his participation in the creation of MPM, and his expulsion for reasons everyone knows, although certain parliamentarians at one time stood by him, only to be silenced by the party.

Jundooing surveyed the situation with the Prime Minister, together with Sir Sateoa Boolell and a few other ministers. He believes it his duty to work for the country within the government.

Of his former party, Jundooing said that certain opportunists had seized its leadership. He accused MPM of radically changing its 1976 program by making, without explanation, a very clear departure from it.

Jundooing also accused the MPM leadership of being deaf to the viewpoint of the "base," and expressed the opinion that MPM wished an alliance with PSM for its propaganda value with the Hindu community.

The Black Series

For his part, Vijay Venkatasamy revealed that his first conflict goes back to the Sheikh Hossen affair. He was one of the few parliamentary figures to oppose the leadership, and even the Rose Hill regional representative declared that he shared the deputy's views. After publication of the investigator's report a certain figure wished to criticize it, but Venkatasamy warned against any attack which would threaten the judiciary.

Nor did Venkatasamy approve the August 1979 strikes, and he was disgusted by the behavior of an activist group which burned sugarcane fields. It was then that with a small group of MPM deputies he undertook a campaign under the cover of an association. The leadership accused him of "rural bourgeoisie."

A third conflict was over the choice of the MPM education committee chairman. Venkatasamy deplored the procedure used, because he wished the parliamentary group to choose the chairman. The leadership then spread malicious rumors concerning him.

The Dev Case

Finally, the choice of Dev Virahasamy for the Rose Hill-Stanley regional committee. The MPM leadership, who saw in Venkatasamy a "useful manager,"

and who says it appreciates his work in the Public Accounts Committee, chose a tolegon outsider. Venkatasamy was tempted to resign in 1975, but he resolved to serve out his term. Unfortunately, the Jundooing affair was to upset everything.

The MMM has proved its contempt for the mid-level bourgeoisie. The bakery owner M. D. Seekun, some secondary school directors, and some bus owners have all paid the price. A teachers' union asks that its license to operate be withdrawn from Stratford secondary school, forgetting that their own licenses would disappear. The MMM ideology pits workers against workers.

Venkatasamy says that under those circumstances he would earn less. As the school's director his pay was 4,770 rupees, and his parliamentary allowance was Rs 4,385, for a total of Rs 9,115. But as a parliamentary secretary his pay will not reach Rs 6,000.

And it is a Moslem who has been named to succeed him at the "New Eton." As for the MMM, it offers a post as vice premier not to Kader Bhayat or to Dr. Swaleh Kassenally, but to Harish Boodhoo. Moslems should reflect carefully on the fate reserved for them by the MMM, said Venkatasamy.

No Duty-Free Perquisites

He then disclosed that he will concern himself with preventing revenue leaks. On Monday he will be at the Customs with Diljore.

Venkatasamy will be concerned with matters of income tax, finances, and semi-public institutions. He gave assurance that he will ask for no duty-free whisky or car, and he has invited the MMM to accept sacrifices to defend the workers.

Venkatasamy spoke of the difficulties of the brotherhood organization and of the coming of Jayen Cuttaree to reassure the Tamils, and said that the MMM, owing to its divergent tendencies, will be unable to defend the interests of the masses.

Navin Jokhoo then announced that as former chairman of regional committee 9 he has decided to join forces with the two deputies, and possibly join the PT [Labor Party].

In answer to questions, Venkatasamy said he had printed the first MMM newspaper, and that it was the MMM which approached him in 1976 to be a candidate. He has not changed; moreover, his children are in primary school and do not go seeking admission to the Labourdonnais secondary school.

The young, according to Venkatasamy, know how to distinguish between practice and theory. Marxist-Leninist ideology interests them but little; what they want is employment.

BRIEFS

APPLICANTS FOR JOBS IN ARABIA--A preliminary list of 325 air stewardess candidates compiled by the Ministry of Employment will be transmitted this week to Saudia Airlines in Saudi Arabia. The list will be the object of searching examination by the company. That step will precede the despatch of a Saudia Airlines representative to Mauritius for the purpose of drawing up a restricted list of stewardess candidates meeting standards set by the company. The list will be established after interviews of the candidates. After the government's announcement more than 500 Mauritian girls registered. Of them, 325 met the standards set for age, academic qualifications, and height. Age limits are 19 to 30, at least a final secondary school certificate is required, and minimum height is 1.57 m. From sources close to the Ministry of Employment it is learned that the number of candidates far exceeded expectations, and that even Air Mauritius stewardesses applied. The cause is the attractive salaries to be paid the recruits. These reach 6,400 Rs a month, not counting fringe benefits. It is learned, moreover, that the authorities are still awaiting entry visas for the 63 artisans recently chosen for employment by Drake & Scull in Saudi Arabia. [Text] [Port Louis THE NATION in French 27 Jan 81 p 17 6145]

CHINESE RICE SHIPMENT--A cargo of 12,000 tons of rice on board the "Corviglia," which anchored in Port Louis roads 18 January, has now been offloaded by port workers. This rice cargo from the Chinese Peoples Republic is added to the 11,000 odd tons of rice already in the Mauritius Marine Authority's granary. On 22 January there remained 10,740 tons to be offloaded, and offloading of the balance of the shipment will be completed by 2 February, according to port circles. With this cargo Mauritian rice requirements are met until the end of April. On Thursday another ship, the "Elbia," arrived with 15,000 tons of cement, which is offloaded in bulk. Thus no cement shortage is anticipated on the local market. [Text] [Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 24 Jan 81 p 17 6145]

NEW VOTERS--Voter registration for the forthcoming legislative elections began yesterday with a door-to-door campaign by officials to register new voters. The new list will serve for the general election, which will send new deputies to Parliament, as well as for municipal and village elections. The electoral commissioner's office has recruited about 1,500 part-time officials. Most are primary school teachers, who will work mornings and afternoons on Saturdays and Sundays. Electoral Commissioner Harold Glover on Thursday made a televised appeal to the population asking its cooperation. He went to Rodrigues with M. D. Jivanji, the district electoral officer, to observe at close range the organization of the registration. It is possible that the number of polling places may be increased so as to facilitate the performance of their civic duty by residents of Rodrigues. We recall that

no fewer than 450,414 voters were registered in Mauritius in 1976, and 11,735 in Rodrigues. The number of new voters in Mauritius and Rodrigues is estimated at just under 50,000. ~~Text~~ Port Louis THE NATION in French 10 Jan 81 pp 1,4 6145

CSO: 4400

GROWING FEAR OF LIBYA AFFECTS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Mar 81 p 7

[Article by Jean-Claude Pomonti--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] On Sunday 1 March Njamena acknowledged the presence of Soviet and East German military experts in the Chadian capital, as reported last week from French sources (LE MONDE of 27 February). The Chadian Press Agency writes, in fact, that "materiel used by the Libyan army requires cooperation from Soviet and East German advisers." "It is a fact," it continues, "the evidence for which calls for little in the way of commentary."

In Addis Ababa, the 36th council of ministers of the Organization of African Unity ended Monday at dawn. That meeting was dominated by budget issues of the pan-African organization and by the Namibian conflict. The Libyan military intervention in Chad, however, must have been the object of many private exchanges in the course of which Nigeria is supposed to have played an important role.

Niamay--In a certain sense, Africa is sick of Chad, and may well remain so for a good bit of time. In 1975, with the beginning of the Ethiopian revolution and above all the eruption of the Angolan conflict, the black continent became a new victim of the cold war. But, for 5 years, the latter was confined to the Horn of Africa and its southern part. With the occupation of Njamena more than 2 months ago by Libyan troops benefiting from Soviet and East German logistical assistance, the cold war now threatens to become implanted in the very heart of the continent.

The case of Niger, which shares borders with both Chad and Libya, illustrates this change rather well. Until the decision was made some half dozen years ago to embark on extensive exploitation of the uraniferous wealth of Air, in the north, this vast Sahelian territory had a very marginal existence. It suffered terribly from the serious drought of 1973-1974 and in the same period went through a coup pulled off by the present chief of state, Colonel Kountche, against Mr Diori Hamani, a visibly vinded "father of independence." Otherwise, this poor country was merely the backdrop for the more or less happy cohabitation of the small minority of Tuareg and Toubou nomads of the north with the more numerous peoples of the south--between four and five million people today--living in the Niger valley and on the border with Nigeria. In short, Niger barely mattered.

This is no longer the case. With some 10 percent of world uranium production in 1980, it is reckoned today among the states on which Paris counts to provide the supplies for the ambitious French nuclear program. It also meets the aid criteria formulated by the new American administration: an obvious /"strategic"/ interest (uranium) in the face of /"Soviet expansionism"/ and relatively responsible conduct of the nation's business, the Niamey regime having up to now shown little penchant for spending on pomp or irresponsible development projects. /"I even foresee the day,"/ an American will tell us, /"when my compatriots will be able to distinguish between Niger and Nigeria, which is not yet the case."/

By winning the battle for Ndjamena for the rather heterogeneous Chadian coalition presided over by Goukouni Oueddei, Colonel Qadhdhafi has aroused serious apprehension, particularly in Niamey and Lagos. Not only are the Nigerian federal authorities upset that Libya should intervene so overtly in an area which they consider more and more to be under the influence of their own diplomacy, but they are now taking a fresh look at the intrigues of Libyan agents in the northern states which the federation has difficulty controlling.

Vigilant Attention

The case of Niger, which has no regional ambitions, is doubtless different, but anxiety about the possibility of "Libyan subversion" has been strongly reinforced. For long years Tripoli has claimed and occupied the border post of Toummo. The laxity of the old regime made it possible for many Libyan merchants to establish themselves in Niger, particularly in Agadez. The great mosque of Niamey, financed by Tripoli, has testified since last year to the definite appetites of Libya: the ambition to create a "Great Sahel," the claim on the Tuaregs of northern Nigeria, and the mission which Tripoli claims for itself in relation to the Muslims of the entire area. Finally, several sources maintain that Libyans were implicated, in 1976, in the third conspiracy foiled by President Kountche.

At a time when uranium, despite its present low market value, has become an unexpected chance for a Niger lacking in resources and handicapped by its geographic isolation, Colonel Kountche is not unaware that Tripoli could try to shake a still quite precarious equilibrium. Like Lagos, Niamey has not accepted the proposal for a Libyan /"people's bureau."/ Also, the recent ministerial shake-up (LE MONDE of 11 February) seems to have expressed the triple concern to strengthen the effectiveness of the government, to strengthen the hand of the chief of state, and, with the promotion of two Tuaregs to the rank of minister, to manifest Niamey's growing interest in the hitherto ignored nomads.

While thus expressing his firmness, President Kountche has nonetheless shown prudence in refusing the French offer to send him a small garrison*. Not only do the Nigerois realize that having a French unit on their territory would hurt them in the pan-African context while scarcely contributing to the reduction of the risks of /"subversion,"/ but they also have difficulty seeing Paris's game clearly. Could Franco-Libyan trade relations come before any other considerations? Might France, despairing of victory, resign itself to the /"partition"/ of Chad? These are the questions that Nigerois cannot keep from asking themselves.

*In January however, 25 military staff came to reinforce the French contingent of officers and NCO's responsible for organizing the military schools.

Two other factors also favor this position of attentive vigilance chosen by Niamey. Despite the reinforcement of the French military contingent in the Central African Republic, it must be assumed that French diplomacy will be paralyzed until the presidential elections. On the other hand, President Reagan's first African initiatives will probably once again deal with southern Africa and, in relation to the Middle East, the Horn of the continent.

But everyone here seems to think this is only a respite. Colonel Qadhdhafi's escapade on the banks of Lake Chad would doubtless be of less importance if it were not supported by Soviet military weaponry, and if it did not accompany actions liable to "destabilize" the neighboring countries, whose new mineral wealth is eagerly desired or already being exploited by a West which apparently is more resolved to defend interests which at this time converge with those of Nigeria, black Africa's greatest economic power. In this respect, Niger's example only confirms the new march the cold war is making on a continent which got out of it barely 6 years ago.

9516

CSO: 4400

URANIUM ROAD'S COMPLETION TERMED POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT

Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Mar 81 p 7

[Article by Jean-Claude Pomonti--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Tahoua, Niger.--The last segment of the road linking the uranium deposits of Air, in northern Niger, with the Atlantic coast was opened last week at the Tahoua entrance, located in a dusty little market town situated 400 km northeast of Niamey as the crow flies. From Tahoua, the asphalt ribbon winds through arid and then desert landscaped, ascending, via Agades--a tourist and business center--to Arlit, where two companies already in operation, Somair and Cominak, produced more than 4,000 tons of uranium in 1980, or about 10 percent of all world production.

The usefulness of this road which was built in less than 3 years and at a cost of Fr 1 million per kilometer--which seems very reasonable--is evident from the necessity of bringing up to Arlit some 30 tons of various products in order to manufacture one tone of uranium. Today trucks can make the Tahoua-Arlit run in a day. The goods unloaded in the Benin port of Cotonou, on the Gulf of Guinea, climb by train to Parakou, where they are loaded into trucks which make the rest of the journey via Niamey, the Nigerois capital.

Arlit, an artificial mining town that has sprung out of the desert--where the French have even prepared a kitchen-garden--is located in the very heart of the continent. To the north, astride the border between Niger and Algeria, only 600 more km of asphalt is needed to complete the Trans-Saharan which would link the uranium complex with the port of Algiers. Thus, little by little we see taking shape the opening up of an area which is considered strategic, and where COGEMA (General Nuclear Materials Company) of France has very solid interests, particularly through its above-mentioned subsidiaries, Cominak and Somair.

For the Nigerois state, the importance of this new communication artery is also political. Uranium is, in effect, a basic resource in the heart of a country of nomads whom the Nigerien authorities are more anxious than in the past to integrate into the life of the country. It was, in fact, at the insistent pressure of President Kountche that the mining companies and the Nigerois ministry of public works created a company, Concetta, charged in 1975 with responsibility to complete the "uranium road," which today is considered /"a special tool [to facilitate] the overall economic development of the country."/

BRIEFS

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS—France has sent 25 active-duty military officers to Niger who will beef up the 70 officers and NCO's already stationed there who are used in training military personnel. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

NIGERIAN ENERGY COOPERATION—The Nigerian minister of mines and power went to Niamey for a week's visit in Niger. Discussions centered on cooperation between the two countries in the energy area, particularly on the amount of electricity supplied by Nigeria to Niger and on the rate. The Nigerian minister was to visit several mining sites in Niger. The Nigerian Government has a 16 percent share in the Techili uranium deposit. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

HAITIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS—The government of the republic of Haiti and the government of the republic of Niger have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

APPEAL FOR FOREIGN AID—On the occasion of receiving best New Year wishes from the diplomatic corps, President Kountche stated that Niger will need foreign loans to get over its economic crisis. He was responding to a speech made by the dean of the diplomatic corps, the secretary of the Libyan Popular Bureau. President Kountche stressed that Niger has relied on uranium to launch its development programs but currently is seeing that resource being greatly drawn down. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

FRENCH FINANCING AGREEMENTS—France and Niger have signed six financing agreements involving a sum of 250 million CFA francs. The most significant of these agreements, involving 30 million CFA francs, is to carry out additional studies on the Kandadji dam project, the most important development project in Niger. The other agreements involve carrying out mineral planning (35 million CFA francs), cataloguing hydro-electric resources (60 million CFA francs), carrying out hydrologic studies (25 million CFA francs), boosting peanut production (55 million CFA francs), and aid for cotton production (45 million CFA francs). [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

DATA ON FRENCH PRESENCE--Tension: It is felt in Niamey diplomatic circles that the announcement that France might intervene at the request of African states if Libyan troops go beyond Chad's borders cannot help but be welcomed by the Nigerois authorities. In fact, as President Kountche has indicated, Niger is on the front line of African states threatened by the ambitions of Colonel Qadhafi, who would like to incorporate them in a future "Islamic Republic of the Sahel." Meanwhile, Niger does not have a defense agreement with France, since the 1977 agreement of military technical cooperation has replaced the 1961 defense and logistical support agreements. In Niger France only has a military mission for technical cooperation made up of some 90 officers and NCO's with training responsibilities. Stress is laid on the fact that none of these military men has a position of command in the Nigerois Armed Forces. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

NIGERIAN MINING, ENERGY COOPERATION--Niger and Nigeria have decided to increase their cooperation in the areas of mining and energy and make joint efforts to exploit the Tahoua phosphate deposits in the far southwest of Niger. On the subject of uranium, and in particular regarding mining the Techili deposit near Arlit (in the northwest part of Niger), in which the Nigerian Government will have a 16 percent share, it was agreed to hold a meeting in the 1st half of March to consider the consequences of the construction of an international airport and the consequences of a military camp being in the area to be mined. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Feb 81 p 17] 9631

CSO: 4400

MINISTER LISTS 25 PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 3 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by Cyprian Agbor]

[Text] The Federal Minister of State in the Ministry of Industries, Dr I.J. Igbani, has made a list of 25 made-in-Nigeria products which Nigeria is in a position to export to other countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

He was contributing to the two-day symposium organised by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and sponsored by the European Economic Community (EEC) at the Trade Fair Complex in Lagos last week.

According to the minister, stationery, asbestos, cement, corrugated sheets, aluminium products such as door and window frames, louvres, tanks, cooking utensils and reservoirs could be exported immediately in their present state of production.

His list also covered enamel ware, biscuits furniture and fixtures, foot wear, books and other publications, plastic products, textile materials, cosmetics, perfumery, wire products for netting and fencing, nails bolts and nuts and rubber foam mattresses.

Others were soap, candles, adhesive and glues, selected pharmaceuticals, emu (bottled palm wine), deebie wine (kola wine), peugeot and VW vehicles, jute bags, towels and PVC pipes.

Dr Igbani also listed 12 more items which he said were potential export products. These included cordage and twine, iron and steel utensils, ready-made garments and other wearing apparels, trucks, machine and hand tools pulp and bandages, light bulbs and fittings and heavy vehicle tyres.

He also enumerated table and ceiling fans, steel furniture, surgical, cotton wool, toilet tissues, paper products and tractors.

On agricultural products, he said that he believed that Nigeria can produce enough rice, millet, maize protein, fruits, vegetables for home consumption and still be left with a surplus for exports and added that "we do not have to wait to be self-sufficient before we can export some of our commodities."

The minister cited some products for which there is very little home demand, such as chili pepper from the North and shrimps produced from the South and suggested that we could produce some of these items deliberately for export.

On import restrictions, he said that government was forced to impose restrictions on the importation of certain commodities when even earnings from petroleum exports dropped from N7,631.6 million to N6,542.7 in 1978 and lamented that agricultural exports which were the country's main exports in the sixties have continued to dwindle to a paltry 4.4 percent of Nigeria's total exports in the late seventies.

CSO: 4420

GOVERNMENT TO FORMALIZE CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 17 Feb 81 pp 1,24

[Article by Cyprian Agbor]

[Text] The Federal Government will soon take steps to officially formalise the cross border trade between Nigeria and her neighbouring ECOWAS countries of West African sub-region, a senior official of the Ministry of Commerce told the BUSINESS TIMES last week.

He said that the government would legalise the trade when the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), which is directly under the Ministry of Commerce, carries out exploration exercise and submits recommendations for the formalisation of the trade.

Our source added that as far back as 1978 the Council had found that exports of made-in-Nigeria goods such as plastic wares, enamel ware, stationery, cosmetics and detergents had been filtering across the country's borders.

He said the Council also discovered that these goods which were carried out of Nigeria did not go only to ECOWAS countries but also to Central African countries such as Chad, Central African Republic and Cameroun and that they constituted the bulk of the country's unrecorded trade.

In March 1979 the NEPC received a report from their consultants which identified a number of products and products groups considered to have export prospects especially in ECOWAS countries such as Ivory Coast, Senegal, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

This feasibility survey was meant to form part of a more comprehensive study for which a contract had been concluded and got underway last year.

During the opening of the current seminar organised by the Export Council, (NEPC) and sponsored by the European Economic Community (EEC) in Lagos, the Federal Minister for Commerce, Alhaji Maitama Yusuf said that nonpetroleum exports had declined drastically during the last decade.

He added that government will pursue a vigorous policy of promoting the scale of made-in-Nigeria goods abroad during this 1981-85 plan, and that this will be done largely through the implementation of the programme of the NEPC. [as published]

He also disclosed that apart from giving direct incentives, financial and other forms of support to prospective exporters efforts will be stepped up to provide essential trade information on foreign markets especially in the ECOWAS region for the sale of Nigerian made goods.

A BUSINESS TIMES investigation recently revealed that this trade is carried out by citizens of the neighbouring countries resident in Nigeria who carry out Television sets and other electronic equipment as personal effects.

Another group of these traders are Nigerians who smuggle goods in private cars, buses and pick-up vans. Some use bush paths and have been known to carry heavy sacks stuffed with all sorts of hot drinks on bicycles from Cotonou after disposing of the goods carried from Nigeria.

Available statistics from the NEPC show that while imports from ECOWAS countries to Nigeria rose from N45.2 million in 1977/78 to N47.9 million in 1978/79 and exports from Nigeria were only N4 million with earnings rising from N11.7 million in 1977/78 to N15.7 million in 1978/79 the trend is gradually reversing now with more made-in-Nigeria goods finding their way out to these countries.

Our source added that until the government finally does something definite the reversed trend of trade will continue to remain unrecorded and to Nigeria's disadvantage.

CSO: 4420

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

Ten New Banks

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 pp 1, 32

[Article by Roseline Umesì]

[Text] The number of banks in the country will rise substantially soon, when the government approves the licences of 10 applicants. The applications have been pending since 1979.

Sources in the Federal Ministry of Finance told the BUSINESS TIMES last week that the government is giving "active consideration" to the applications. Other sources told our reporter that the Federal Executive Council will take a decision on the licences within the next few weeks.

Although the BUSINESS TIMES had learnt that there were 12 applications pending, sources in the Central Bank told our reporters last week that only 10 applications were recommended by the bank for approval. Five of these were applications by governments to operate cooperative banks, while the balance are applications from private businessmen, in conjunction with foreign banks.

During the Fourth National Development Plan period, eight state governments propose to establish banks. But the five for which approval may soon be given are the Progress Bank (Imo State), the Owens Bank (Ondo State), the Plateau Cooperative Bank (Plateau State), the Ibile Bank (Lagos State), and the Sokoto Cooperative Bank (Sokoto State).

Nigeria currently has 20 commercial banks and six merchant banks in operation.

The commercial banks have a little over 700 branches, many of them opened under the Rural Banking Programme of the Central Bank.

The second phase of the Rural Banking Programme which started last August requires, the commercial banks to open 260 branches in specified rural locations within 40 months. When this is completed the number of bank branches will be over 1,000, a figure closer to the 1,200 branches which industry sources say the country now needs for efficient services.

But starting a bank in Nigeria is not as easy as it might appear. Apart from the apparent slow processing of applications, other requirements are quite stiff.

An intending banker is required by the Banking Act of 1969 to submit a detailed feasibility report, information about proposed working capital, and foreign institutions, if any, involved in the proposal.

In addition he is required to give details of proposed organisational structure, staff training programme, and any special services which the bank proposes to provide and the extent to which such services are not adequately provided by existing banks.

Also to be provided is information on the previous experience of the applicants and a five year financial projection.

A foreign bank proposing to open operations in the country is required to comply with the Nigeria Enterprises Promotion Act 1977, which classifies banking under schedule II, requiring 60 per cent indigenous equity participation.

One of the most important information required is the amount available for working capital. The minimum requirement was N600,000 but the BUSINESS TIMES learnt last week, that the Central Bank as a rule advises applicants to have a working capital of N3 million for commercial banks and N2 million for merchant banks.

Central Bank sources told the BUSINESS TIMES last week that individuals, groups or organisations as well as governments can establish banks, so long as they meet the conditions set out in the Banking Act 1969 and the Amendment Act, No 3 of 1970.

Industrial/Commercial Port

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 pp 1,3

[Article by Cyprian Agbor]

[Text] Action on the proposed multipurpose Industrial/Commercial Port Complex to be sited 50 kilometres East of Lagos has passed from the feasibility studies stage to the execution stage with the submission of the report of the studies by the Japanese firm Messrs C. O. D. I. (Japan) to the Federal Government since last year.

The project is to be carried out in two stages and the entire contract has been estimated to cost N305.4 million.

Records from the Nigerian Ports Authority NPA show that the feasibility studies on both stages of the project have been completed by the same firm and had been submitted to the government.

The first stage of the project is scheduled to take up to 7 years to complete at a cost of over N103 million. It will involve the construction of temporary roads, temporary wharves, temporary breakwaters, temporary buildings and yards.

It will also involve site clearance, dredging and reclamation, of up to 28,000,000 metres, the provision of mooring facilities and related hand facilities, utilities, navigational aids, boats--power supply, and port services.

As to why most of the infrastructures to be provided under the first phase of the project should be only temporary, a Ministry of Transport source said that the new ocean port is a long term project planned in order to meet the challenges posed by technological developments mostly in terms of ship design, and cargo handling techniques together with the massive maritime traffic expected to pass through the nation by the year 2000.

He added that the first stage of the project will just lay the ground work for a large ocean port capable of handling any class of ships that can be thought of but that the main port itself will be built soon after the first phase is ready.

Our source said that the new port is being planned with the West and Central African Regions in mind as it could turn out to be a central container distribution centre for the region. He argued that the unit cost per container is lower when a vessel capable of moving 3000 t.e.u. containers is used to one location from where it turns round than one carrying 3,000 containers and making a mill round of calls to various ports. [as published]

Pharmaceutical Plant

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] Glaxo Nigeria Limited has embarked on the building of a N20 million pharmaceutical factory at Agbara Industrial Estate. The foundation laying ceremony was performed by Chief S. L. Edu the chairman of the company.

Cappa and D'Alberto and Drake and Scull Nigeria Limited are handling the civil engineering aspect of the project while Eldorado Nigeria Ltd., is to handle the steel work. The factory is to be ready for use by September 1982.

In another development, the company has announced the retirement of Chief S. L. Edu, who is the chairman Professor E. A. Elebute is to take over from Chief Edu.

Sokoto Steel Feasibility Study

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 3

[Text] Feasibility studies for a N20 million steel rolling mill to be built in Sokoto have been completed. The study was prepared for the Sokoto State Investment Company by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON) of India who are said to be technical consultants for the project.

The proposed mill is to have a capacity of 60,800 tonnes of bars annually and is expected to create about 400 jobs when in operation.

Paper Mills Increase Production

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 3 Mar 81 p 2

[Text] The Nigerian Paper Mills (NPM) is to increase production from 40 tons a day to 200 tons a day.

The chairman of the NPM Alhaji Hiliru Dantoro told the Federal Minister of State for Industry, Dr I. J. Igbani on his first official visit to the Mills, at Jebba, that the expansion programme of the mills which was commissioned in 1978 will produce its own pulp from Nigerian hardwood and will provide employment to over 2,000 people.

Alhaji Dantoro said that one of the problems facing the mills is inadequate finance. The Federal Government provided N45 million for the expansion project instead of N126 million which the NPM required to complete the project.

Dr Igbani praised the Paper Mills for the work done on the expansion project within the past few months.

He said the Federal Government attaches great importance to the local production of paper and will ensure that enough funds are made available to complete the project.

He called on the management to submit to his ministry summary of the items and activities for which additional funds will be needed to complete the project.

CSO: 4420

MANPOWER BOARD REPORTS UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 3 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] About 1.34 million Nigerians are unemployed, according to Government estimates based on recent sample surveys carried out by the National Manpower Board.

The estimate placed the national labour force at 32.24 million for 1981 and total gainful occupation at 30.90 million. The implied unemployment rate is 4.2 per cent.

The figures however, refer to open unemployment: that is, they do not include the numbers of underemployed persons, who constitute the majority of the labour force. These are defined as persons in low productivity and very low income employment.

According to the Government Paper, the overall employment rate of 4.2 percent represents an underestimation of the problem. Unemployment, it said, is essentially an urban problem and in most of the big urban centres, the rate is running at between 8 per cent and 13 per cent.

The number of persons in wage employment is estimated at about 3 million or 9 per cent of those in gainful employment. This, the Government believes, is too small, especially considering the high and increasing demand for wage jobs that is to be expected as more people leave schools and migrate to urban centres.

By the end of the 4th Plan Period, the government expects that the labour force will rise to 36.08 million, while gainful occupation would have risen to 34.82 per cent by 1985, with 1.26 million persons being openly unemployed.

In effect, the government projects that about 3.92 million employment opportunities will be created during the Plan Period, implying an average annual growth rate of 2.5 per cent.

However, in order to keep the problem of urban unemployment within manageable proportions, the government estimates that a 5 per cent per annum growth in wage employment opportunities will be necessary.

JOINT PROJECTS WITH INDIA SUMMARIZED

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] New joint projects expected to begin operation soon between Indian and Nigerian partners are in the fields of Industrial gases, pharmaceuticals manufacture and PVC conductors and cables.

The Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr K. Srinivasan, said this during an interview with the BUSINESS TIMES last week.

He said that so far all the joint venture projects functioning in 14 sectors of the Nigerian economy were doing fine.

On the 4th National Development Plan he said that it was for Nigeria to decide which areas they want India to participate in but pointed out that India could come in for small scale industries, agriculture, development of inland waterways and training of personnel in various fields.

Iron and Steel development, the manufacture of cement and cement products are also some of the areas in which the Indian experience can be of relevance, Mr Srinivasan added.

When reminded that the balance of payments as at now is unfavourable to India in view of her import of 10,000 barrels per day of crude oil from Nigeria the Ambassador said it was not unusual for a country to have balance of payments deficit with other countries.

He added that India does not necessarily seek parity on a country by country basis but he hinted that India would endeavour to export engineering goods consultancy services and other forms of manufacture which the Nigerian government feels might be profitably get from India. [as published]

He also said that India would like to buy more crude oil from Nigeria.

India's per capita income is U.S. \$110 while her growth rate is 6.7 to 7 per cent postulated for 1985-86.

The areas in which the Indians are currently participating in the Nigerian economy include the Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA), the Nigerian Railway

Corporation (NRC), the Medical Field, the Iron and Steel rolling Mills at Aladia in the public sector and textile manufacture, steel ropes and other forms of small scale industry in the private sector.

Another Embassy official hinted last week that thousands of enquiries were now being made at the Indian High Commission after the just concluded Indian Exhibition in Lagos from January 26 to February 3, 1981.

CSO: 4420

BRIEFS

PALM OIL PROJECTS--The Ondo State Investment Corporation has secured a loan of N2.8 million from the Agriculture Development Bank (ADB) for its oil palm projects. This was disclosed last week by the Chairman of the Corporation Mr Wumi Adegbonmire when the State Deputy Governor Mr Akin Omoboriowo visited the Ode Irele oil palm plantation. The Chairman said that the money would be used to reactivate some of the oil palm plantations and other agricultural projects being handled by his Corporation. He further disclosed that his Corporation had engaged Technologists from the University of Ife to conduct studies on how best to reduce labour wastes and increase productivity in all its projects. [Text] [Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 17 Feb 81 p 24]

ELECTRIFICATION IN ENUGU--The Governor of Anambra State J'm Nwobodo last week launched the State's N40 million Rural Electrification Scheme in Enugu, the State Capital. The scheme is expected to provide electricity supply to a population of 411,000 people in 117 towns in the state. He also announced that the scheme will be expanded in the near future to cover up to 15 [word illegible] The project was constructed by the West German firm of Brown Boveri Company (BBC). [Text] [Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 17 Feb 81 p 24]

NEW EMBASSIES--Eight new embassies and four consulate-generals are to be opened this year. This was announced in Lagos yesterday by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Ali Baba, while addressing the House of Representatives Committee on External Affairs. The new embassies would be in Manila, Philippines, Kuwait in the Middle-East, East Berlin, Prague-Czechoslovakia, Caracas-Venezuela, Mexico City, Mexico, Buenos Aires, Argentina and Switzerland. The consulate-generals would be set up in Atlanta, Brazil, Greece and Jeddah. The minister said this would eliminate administrative bottlenecks and improve efficiency. Mr Ali Baba explained that, as part of the exercise, the ministry would be merged into five or six departments among which regions and services had been divided. He told the committee that there were 80,000 Chadian refugees in the two camps in Maiduguri. He said the camps were costing his ministry N40,000 a year. On why foreign nationals were employed in "sensitive positions" in the nation's missions abroad, the minister explained that only national from countries considered "not dangerous" to Nigeria were employed. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 19 Feb 81 p 40]

KAMARA-TAYLOR URGES STUDENTS IN USSR TO CONSIDER PRIORITIES

Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 7 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Second Vice-President, Mr. C.A. Kamara-Taylor, who is currently heading a four-man delegation to the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, has urged Sierra Leoneans in the Soviet Union to get their sequences right, return home and rededicate themselves to the task of nation building.

Mr. Kamara-Taylor, who was addressing a cross-section of the Sierra Leone Students Union and members of the A.P.C. branch at the Embassy in Moscow noted that the root cause for some graduates not being easily absorbed in the service is the fact that their fields of study do not conform with the immediate needs of the country.

He counselled students to look into fields of study relevant to our development programmes and refrain from anything that would detract their attention.

The Second Vice-President spoke of the opportunities the A.P.C. government has offered youths of today noting that in their educational pursuit the sky is their limit.

He referred to the numerous developmental programmes implemented by the A.P.C. since its inception citing agro-based industries and infrastructural developments.

His speech was punctuated with applause when he announced positive results of the exploration and prospecting of offshore oil by the Mobil Oil Company in Sierra Leone.

Gold, he added, has been found in large deposits and arrangements are being made for its exploitation.

Mr. Kamara-Taylor observed that the leadership of both the students union and the A.P.C. branch in the Soviet Union seem identical in which case he suggested a merger of the two organisations noting this will not only embrace progress but will foster unity which government is striving hard to create amongst Sierra Leoneans respective of wherever they are.

BRIEFS

COAL DEPOSIT--A new find which could lead to the discovery of large deposits of coal in Sierra Leone has been made by mining analysts. Although prospecting is yet to be stepped up, the analysts have already discovered lignite (traces of coal) in a number of disused pit at Madonkeh--two-and-half miles from Newton in the outskirts of Freetown. And on Thursday week, three Hungarians and National Workshop Director Mr. Victor Devenaux will be visiting the bush for further explanatory work. The pits were believed to have been dug some 25 years ago to keep the then locomotive trains running but were later abandoned when government phased out the railways. The tipoff was reported to have been passed on to authorities by a number of old railway workers presently employed by the National Workshop. It followed an acute shortage of fuel for smelting by the blacksmith section of the national works. According to sources close to the Works, after next week's visit the relevant authorities at the Ministry of Mines will then be officially informed for possible prospecting. Apart from keeping the country's only National works going, the coal, observers believe, will help solve Sierra Leone's mounting fuel problem. [Text] [Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 5 Mar 81 pp 1, 8]

LOCAL APPEALS COURTS--Paramount Chiefs of the Southern Province have returned to their respective Chiefdoms from Pujehun after their second conference in recent years. Before the closing session they listened to a paper on the relationship between the Court Chairman and the Paramount Chief delivered by Customary Law Officer Mr. Ahmed Kamara. He said Chieftaincy should be regulated by an Act of Parliament if Paramount Chiefs are to be respected and if they are to play a meaningful role in the administration of justice. Among other things, Mr. Kamara suggested that Court Chairman should not hear and determine cases in their own Chiefdoms in order to avoid rivalry and friction between them and Paramount Chiefs. The conference ended with a seventeen-point resolution among which the Chiefs thanked the APC Government for its continued moral and financial support to the conference and resolved to request government to establish special local appeal courts to be chaired by Paramount Chiefs. They urged the Customary Law Officer to hold review courts at district headquarters so as to minimise travelling expenses and undue hardship on local court Chairmen and litigants. [Text] [Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 5 Mar 81 p 4]

ADB STUDIES PROJECT--A four-man mission from the African Development Bank which is in Sierra Leone to conduct an appraisal of the Northern Area Project for possible funding of the second phase by the Bank, has briefed the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on their findings. The leader of the team expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the Project and expressed delight at the selection of such an area for a rural development project. He also expressed his appreciation to the Project and Ministry's Staff for their co-operation and arrangements made to ensure that their visit to the Project area was successful. The Minister, Dr A.F. Joe Jackson was delighted to learn that no controversial issues had emerged from their findings and said he envisaged no difficulties in the timely implementation of the second phase of the Project. Dr Joe Jackson expressed gratitude to the team and the African Development Bank for what he described as their supportive stand and contribution to the Project. [Text] [Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 9 Mar 81 p 4]

NEW MINISTER OF STATE--President Siaka Stevens yesterday swore in the Acting Commissioner of Police Mr. Sam Taylor as Minister of State. The Head of State congratulated Mr. Taylor for his appointment and said that he had no doubt the new Minister would work successfully. In expressing thanks to President Stevens for the appointment, Mr. Taylor, who had served for 32 years in the police force, said that under the dynamic leadership of President Stevens the police force has made considerable progress. He assured President Stevens that the police force will work to protect all citizens and maintain peace in the country. Mr. Taylor wished President Stevens a continued successful tenure of office as Chairman of the OAU. At the ceremony were the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Mr. A.B. Kamara; the Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police Mr. John Grant and Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Patrick Johnson and Mr. Rambay Kamara. [Text] [Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 7 Mar 81 pp 1, 8]

AHMADIYYA TO BUILD CLINIC--The foundation stone for a Le50,000 Ahmadiyya Clinic has been laid in Massingbi in the Tonkolili District by the Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement in this country Maulvi M.S. Shahid. The project when completed, will help ease accommodation problem in the present medical centre also owned by the mission. It will comprise an outpatient block, male and female blocks and an administrative complex for running a clinic. And the mission has plans in the future to extend the clinic and provide it with modern equipment. At the impressive foundation-laying ceremony, Amir Shahid appealed to brother Ahmadis and Sierra Leoneans to give a helping hand to ensure the speedy completion of the all important project. Assisting the Amir were Paramount Chief Kanagboro Sanka II, the member of parliament for the area, J. Conteh, Maulvi Majeed Ahmad, Maulvi Fazal Elahi and the Medical Officer, Dr. Sajid Ahmad. [Text] [Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 9 Mar 81 p 4] [As published]

CSO: 4420

NO 'CONSTELLATION' PROGRESS; IS CONSOLIDATION A RAY OF HOPE?

No Progress

Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 16 Jan 81 p 10

["Perspective" column by Bert Ferreira: "Talks with the National States Proceeding too Slowly"]

[Text] There is no clarity with respect to the status and position of dependent national states in a new southern Africa constellation. Moreover, it does not appear that last month's talks between the various leaders involved and the government can shed much light on this and other subjects of common interest.

The presumption is that the deadlock in the government's negotiations with the dependent national states is not yet much closer to a solution.

This impression is strengthened by the decision to delay the talks over such things as: citizenship, a statement of intentions, and the draft legislation on new regulations, especially with respect to urban blacks, which were to have taken place this week.

The question of a statement of intentions (a document which must set the objective to be aimed at by the national states within the greater framework) has become a stale matter for sometime now.

It was initially set up 2 years ago as a condition for negotiations between the heads of the national states and the government and although the conditions remain unchanged there is yet no sign of the statement.

Supposedly a draft of this, which was written up by the leaders of the national states, has now been presented for further comments to their own ranks.

The contents of this remain secret and will not be published until it is submitted to the government and then discussed jointly.

It is possible that it will appear on the agenda for the following series of discussions which will possibly take place in February. Lacking any knowledge of the contents (the nature of the demands being made), it is impossible to predict what the reaction of the government will be.

New Initiative

Should, for example, the document come up with a suggestion for a national convention, just to mention an extreme possibility, then we could assume in advance that this will come to naught. However, if it comes up with any other feasible method which presents practical aims on the road to greater participation, then this could set in motion an entirely new initiative.

The present impasse in the states' talks with the government has its one bright point in the fact that the talks are continuing, even though these are moving toward a result in an extremely slow manner.

It is especially regrettable that the disillusion which surfaced last year has apparently been carried over unabated into the new year.

The most important point of disillusionment in 1980 was the omission of black representation from the Presidential Council.

The black council which the Schlebusch-Report had proposed as a sort of parallel advisory body was unconditionally rejected by the leaders of black dependent countries as just another creation of apartheid. On the occasion of his meeting with the leaders of the national states in August, Prime Minister P.W. Botha announced, even at that time, that the idea of such a council would not be pursued. However, in the meantime, there were indications that the instrument for the discussions, which had been suggested at that very meeting, (the instrument dealing with discussions at a cabinet level between the government and the national states) was not going to be utilized advantageously.

In this respect the national states could very easily be blamed for this.

Opportunity

If as it turns out the national states are not going to utilize this highest level opportunity to dynamically channel the discussions in the right direction, they will have themselves to blame for the missed opportunity.

Nobody is now willing to say whether or not this is the case. The opportunity for the discussions is there and the opportunity to come up with an initiative is also there. This in itself serves to refute the assertion, from national states circles, that the South African government continues to manifest irreconcilability with respect to their aspirations. Moreover the Presidential Council could not then be continuously cited as an example of irreconcilability, especially if the existing channels for negotiating are not going to be utilized advantageously.

On the other hand, there is the possibility that the government itself does not wish to move too fast before the constellation ideas are clarified further.

The impression which arose last year, to the effect that the national states cannot enjoy a definite place in the constellation unless they accept independence, is another thing which has never been cleared up. This is regrettable, because if independence for these states is presented as the only way out, then this presents problems for everybody.

Although it is generally expected that the packet which has been offered to Ciskei can also serve as a moral conviction for enticing other national states to independence, it does not appear that things will go that way.

No Good

Last week one of the most moderate leaders of the national states, Prof Hudson Ntsanwisi of Gazankulu, made it once more clear that none of the existing independence formulas are any good for him; this is also the view which is probably being honored by his colleagues in the other national states.

Chief Minister Buthelesi of Kwazulu has repeatedly voiced opposition in the past and now he even refuses to attend a national states conference at a ministerial level if Ciskei shows its presence there. None of the other chief ministers or executive chairmen of national states have recently demonstrated any willingness to accept independence.

Unresolved problems which are also standing in the way include the problem of South African citizenship and the continued use of this for such purposes as jobs and passports. Moreover the states are still in the dark about any plans being held up for consideration regarding a more proportionate reclamation of property and resources, about how communications and defense networks must be shared between independent and national states, on the one hand, and South Africa on the other, etc.

Professor Ntsanwisi is one of those who are putting it bluntly by saying that as of now the Constellation of States is nothing more than the ghost it was 1 year ago.

Problems

Apparently there does not exist a deeply established lack of confidence among the majority of the national states leaders to the effect that existing problems can be resolved if there is the proper disposition to do so, but the slow progress in this direction does create problems for them.

What was true last year (namely, that their supporters' trust in them is in danger of waning because so little has happened) it is all the more true this year. If the trend is not immediately and convincingly suppressed by positive developments, this could even end up creating a crisis.

Hope in Consolidation?

Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 31 Jan 81 p 6

[Editorial: "New View for Consolidation"]

[Text] The new opinions advanced on how much further southern Africa is moving in the direction of a constellation of states came up for intensive discussions in the most recent views expressed in the area of consolidation. Of course, for many decades consolidation has been getting serious attention from one South Africa government to the other, but it is still presenting problems. However the sober realism which is now being displayed deserves the support of all population groups.

There is a deviation from the old established concept of a national border which must run in an unbroken line surrounding a specific area. Although the endeavor is still to give a homogenous population its own territory, the new thinking now recognizes the reality of economic laws which are not confined by outlined borders.

The new government has always had a keen awareness of the national aspirations of the various population groups coupled to their philosophies of life, language and traditions and in this respect the government has made much progress as three independent and eight national states can attest.

But one factor which in the past has not been given sufficient consideration is that natural borders have sometimes not been enough to provide all the requirements for economic viability for these states.

The most recent formula will try to extend the economic viability of the entire southern Africa region to all of the mutual areas. Irrespective of the minor problems which this can create, this is an idea which immeasurably clarified the prospect of peaceful coexistence.

7964

CSO: 4408

PUNITIVE EXPEDITION TO MAPUTO WARNING TO ALL TERRORISTS

Warning Against Terrorist Bases

Capetown DIE BURGER in Afrikaans 2 Feb 81 p 12

[Editorial: "Punitive Mission to Maputo"]

[Text] The dispatch of a South African punitive expedition to Mozambique as far as the outskirts of Maputo shows once more the resoluteness of the government to turn back the attacks on the country's security and stability regardless of whether these come from elements inside our country or from outside.

And what a remarkable operation that was! First of all it was planned on the basis of excellent intelligence; the planning itself was masterly and it was then carried out with the kind of audacity and military precision the likes of which only a handful of forces in the world are capable of matching.

Along with the sorrow for those men who gave their lives, there is also pride over the manner in which a formidable task was carried out.

These events show the close ties of the ANC [African National Council] with the Marxist government of Mozambique and the danger that this is increasingly creating on South Africa's eastern border. Actually South Africa's display of utmost watchfulness ever since the change in government in this neighboring country is not without good reasons.

Neighboring countries have been repeatedly warned about the consequences that they must bear if they provide bases to terrorists who take action against South Africa. What happened in the early morning hours of Friday shows that the South African armed forces will not hesitate in striking even at the capitals of bordering regions.

Angola too knows very well the meaning of punitive expeditions, and other countries which plan to provide this sort of hospitality to terrorist movements must realize that they can expect the same. This is not what South Africa wants, but if it is forced to make a choice then here is proof that it will strike mercilessly.

In the meantime, the government is fully aware of the need to create those internal conditions which will deny the right of existence to terrorist organizations. The government has committed itself to the creation of such a system and in 3 months it will be asking an express mandate for this from the voters.

It is for the very reason that we are working for a just order for everybody that there are strong moral grounds for maintaining law and order at any price.

Warning to Domestic Terrorism

Johannesburg DIE TRANSVALIER in Afrikaans 3 Feb 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Buthelezi and Maputo"]

[Text] Chief Buthelezi's view in connection with South Africa's attack on ANC nests in Maputo is that blood is thicker than water.

There is evidently political pressure from black radical circles on black leaders such as this chief minister who is seeking peaceful changes within the existing structure.

However we cannot understand the partiality of the chief minister's statements. If he and other black leaders are honest in their search for peaceful solutions then we expect clearer condemnations from them with regard to terroristic actions.

If black leaders also fail to strongly condemn actions such as the attack on SASOL II [South African Coal, Oil and Gas Corporation, Plant II] and the occupation of the Silverstone Bank then this can be interpreted as approval of these deeds.

These black leaders also have the duty of helping to defuse emotions within the country. Among their followers there must be no doubt about their attitude toward violence.

No well-informed person, such as the chief minister himself, can have any doubt on the attitude of organizations such as the ANC toward persons such as he himself. Radical organizations such as this one, intent on practicing violence, are a common enemy and in the final analysis this has nothing to do with the color of one's skin.

7964

CSO: 4408

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN ELECTRIFICATION, WATER CREDIT—It is decreed: Article 1: Authorization is given for the granting of a credit between the Togolese Republic and the Banco do Brasil, S.A., whose main office is in Brasilia (Brazil), acting through its agency in Paris, 49-51 Avenue George V—75,363 Paris Cedex 8 (France), in the amount of US\$2,680,000 for the purpose of electrification work in the cities of Amlame and Mango and the installation of a water transportation and distribution network for the cities of Amlame and Badou. Article 2: The minister of finance and economy is authorized to sign the credit agreement reached by the parties. Article 3: The minister of finance and economy and the minister of public works, mines, energy and hydraulic resources are both responsible, within their respective areas of jurisdiction, for implementation of this decree which will be published in the Official Journal of the Togolese Republic. Lome, 29 May 1980. Army Gen Gnassébe Eyadema [Text] [Lome JOURNAL OFFICIEL DE LA REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE in French 29 May 80 p 2] 8143

CSO: 4400

NEW HOPE REPORTED IN OIL CRISIS

Kampala THE ECONOMY in English 2 Mar 81 pp 1,4

[Article by Luwerekera-Mutagubya]

[Text]

Oil Companies supplying Uganda with fuel have decided to give an interest free revolving credit of 350 million/= to be paid in about three months. This was disclosed to ECONOMY by the Managing Director of Shell and BP (U) Ltd who is also the spokesman of the spokesman of the six oil firms operating in Uganda Mr. R.F.G. Bak.

He said that the petrol crisis in the country is brought about by this year's increase of prices of fuel on the world market since January and the country's lack of foreign exchange.

Bak told ECONOMY REPORTER that since the government promised to increase the buying of fuel from 24m/= to 34m/= a week it has never been implemented and at times we don't get the 24m/= and at times we get it in parts.

He added that in December no money was given to the oil firms and we started getting the 24m/= as per the following days 13/1/81 24m/=. 23/1/81 24m/=. 30/1/81 24m/=. 12/2/81 20m/=. 17/2/81 4m/=. 20/2/81 24m/=. 26/2/81 11m/= and on 27/2/81 13m/=. This indicates that there is a week we never got any money, he said. The Managing Director went on to say that, the 24m/= which is allocated to the oil firms by the government is divided among them as follows Shell and BP 30%, Total 19%, Esso 15%, Caltex 14½%, Agip 14%, Mobil 7½%.

He told ECONOMY REPORTER that before the general elections which were held on December, 10 last year the oil industry in Uganda was importing oil worth between 26m/= and 28m/= per week but after the general elections it dropped to between 20m/= and 22m/=. And when we don't get the money from the government our suppliers don't give us the oil, he explained.

Talking of his company Bak said that it was the largest in the country and it imports petrol

gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil and aviation fuel oil amounting to 6,000,000 (six million) litres per month which is worth 7m/=.

Bak explained that his Company imports less kerosene of 300,000 litres per week due to the fact that it is less important as any Ugandan may use firewood or charcoal in case of cooking their food and may use electricity in case of light.

"Petrol, Gasoline and Diesel oil are very important in reconstructing the economy of the country," Bak added.

Talking as a spokesman of the oil firms in Uganda he said that the situation will soon improve as soon as the government will increase the weekly allocation from 24m/= to 34m/= as promised early January this year.

CSO: 4420

LAW AGAINST WITCHCRAFT, ROLE OF MEDIUMS, NGANGAS DISCUSSED

Revision of Law Called For

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 13 Mar 81 pp 3, 13

[Article by Stan Winer]

[Text]

ZIMBABWE needs a more effective law to suppress witchcraft, says Professor Gordon Chavunduka, Dean of the Social Studies Faculty of the University of Zimbabwe.

And he is calling for the revision of the country's existing Witchcraft Suppression Act of 1960 since, he claims, it protects rather than threatens sorcerers who might use poisonous herbs or plants to harm or kill people.

The Act—which has not been changed since 1960—applies only to people who might accuse others of being witches, in order to protect such alleged witches from victimisation or persecution. A person who names a witch can be prosecuted.

The professor says he is upset that the courts begin by saying witches do not exist—and they include sorcerers "because the terminology (in the Act) does not differentiate between so-called witches and sorcerers".

"So when someone is in court for being a witch, the courts are not prepared to listen—because they say witchcraft does not exist. And that is wrong. I am calling for a full revision of the Act."

The professor hopes for a clear definition of the term "witch" because, he says, reference is sometimes made to witches, sorcerers or wizards and this is "all very confusing".

He is prepared to dismiss such "bizarre notions" of witchcraft that witches are "people who fly around at night on broomsticks".

But witchcraft is the form of poisoning people with certain plants or herbs is "certainly in existence".

Professor Chavunduka notes that in both the Shona and Ndebele vocabularies, there are no separate words for witch and sorcerer.

By talking about witchcraft, he does not mean that he wants people to go back to the Dark Ages.

What he wants is recognition in present-day Zimbabwe that witches — or sorcerers — should be clearly defined so that they can effectively be dealt with by law.

Mediums Still Powerful

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 13 Mar 81 p 13

[Article by Stan Winer]

[Text] The powerful influence of spirit mediums among Zimbabwe's rural people was discovered only "very late in the war" by the Rhodesian security forces who tried to manipulate it for their own ends, says Professor Gordon Chavunduka.

Both ZANLA and ZIPRA guerillas frequently consulted spirit mediums on questions of policy during the liberation war, said Professor Chavunduka, who is the Dean of Social Studies at the University of Zimbabwe.

This, the professor said, affected the course of the war "in many ways."

The security forces circulated propaganda pamphlets, sometimes dropped by helicopters, in an effort to deceive the people into thinking certain orders had been issued by mediums. "The people were not fooled," Professor Chavunduka added.

Because of their strong influence, many of the mediums were killed by the security forces, he claimed. "They were not taken to court but were simply destroyed on the spot."

This merely strengthened the resolve of the rural people and the guerillas who regarded the executed mediums as martyrs. A number of mediums were escorted by guerillas into neighbouring territories for their own safety.

There was no precise information of how many mediums were executed by the security forces — "but information about this is still coming in all the time," Professor Chavunduka said.

There was no inconsistency between the two systems of religious belief existing in Zimbabwe — that ancestral worship through the spirit mediums and Christianity, he said.

Many Zimbabweans who believed in the spirit mediums also believed in God, whom they call "Mwari".

One could easily combine the two systems of belief by recognising that Christians prayed to their own ancestral spirits by

praying to God through Jesus Christ.

It was paradoxical that some Christians were sceptical about traditional ancestral worship which played a central role in the activities of spirit mediums who sought guidance from ancestral spirits.

Professor Chavunduka told the churches: "You have been making a mistake by regarding spirit mediums as heathens. Why not try instead to use the spirit mediums so that religion generally can become more meaningful to the Zimbabwean individual?"

He had talked with Church leaders and was "very optimistic" they would become more co-operative. The evolution of such co-operation would be something "uniquely Zimbabwean" — as too was the application of traditional medicine in Zimbabwe's health sector.

"Many countries have rejected the idea of traditional medicine outright. But here we are looking at it objectively and although a lot of traditional medicine may be absolute rubbish, there are some elements that are extremely significant,"

Regulations Needed

Salisbury THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 15 Mar 81 p 10

["No Holds Barred" column by Gono Goto]

[Text]

THERE is much to commend and to condemn in our African culture, just as in any culture. No culture is perfect — in the sense of being totally and functionally beneficial to the society. There are some good and bad elements. The bad elements must be identified and buried.

If this is the idea behind the formation of the nganga's association and Dr Ushewokunze's Traditional Medical Practitioners' Council Bill, I vote for it with my two hands. There is great need to subject ngangas to rules and regulations and remove the chaotic competition that reveals many of them as gangs of con-men preying upon the ill and psychological problems of their fellow men.

The tendency to glorify and glamorise ngangas regarding their practices as all honey and milk is harmful to the health of the people and to our society. The envisaged Bill must also include a hard and fast code of ethics for ngangas, who could be separated into herbalists and magicians, or sorcerers.

The magicians must be quickly thrown into the medical scrapheap. They are a scourge on our society. They create witches and non-existent diseases in order to have a hold on the people and make easy money for themselves.

They are totally dysfunctional to our society. They promote and project belief in superstition and witchcraft. They are fully aware that the day that people cease to believe in superstition and witchcraft spells disaster for them: it is the end of their source of income and status in society.

Only the herbalists are functional. They know curative herbs and their

mixture and how to use them. They must be recognised, but they must be stopped from combining herbalism with magic, or using superstitious means of diagnosing a disease, such as the throwing of bones, or using funny looking-glasses or ventriloquism. These are cheap sleights of hand designed to hypnotise a patient and pull a fast one on him.

A problem that will face Dr Ushewokunze is how to identify a genuine nganga, because there are no schools for them, no certificates and, therefore, no objective criteria to determine who is a genuine or fake nganga.

They will all claim that they one day had communication with their dead grandfathers in a trance and they were shown curative herbs and were instructed to take up ngangalism as a profession.

How does one prove the truth, or otherwise, of that? The tendency is to accept it on mere say-so.

There will be a fast proliferation of ngangas, more than one can count. Perhaps this will reduce unemployment, because all those without jobs will rush to register as ngangas and by the next day (after sleeping busy) they will be practising, as full-fledged "doctors" at Harare hospitals.

(Every child has a silver lining.)

Regalia

This is no figment of my imagination. I had a cousin who had given me hell, pestering me about getting him a job. Then one week he made no appearance for the entire week, and I wondered what had happened to him.

I wanted to go to my brother to find out about him and I passed through Harare Musika, only to find the man there. He was dressed in the nganga's customary awe-inspiring, intimidatory regalia, with all the nganga's paraphernalia before him; and there was a queue of about 10 clients waiting upon him. How easy it was to find a job.

I see more of this when the Bill is passed into law. If there are no precautions taken, I will perhaps lay down my pen and take to ngangalism as an easy means of making a fast dollar.

It is the duty of the Government to protect its people from the nefarious operations of medical charlatans and impostors.

I am in agreement with the Minister's efforts to streamline the nganga set-up in this country and here I am trying to give relevant caveats.

But I was most astounded by what the Minister said in Bulawayo last week: "I believe the fee structure of the traditional healers is

governed by the ancestral spirits and it would be rather disastrous to interfere with their fees."

Shield

How can the determination of the fees be left to "spirits" over which nobody has any control whatsoever? How shall it be known whether a *nganga* is telling the truth when he says the spirit of his dead grandfather has told him to charge \$1000 for the service he has rendered to a patient? It means that the *nganga* can demand anything and use his ancestors as a shield.

This is open to great corruptive abuses, particularly by modern *ngangas* who operate in new circumstances far removed from the control of their environment. In the olden days it was the environment in which he was known (and the fact that he was related to many of his clients) which imposed control on a *nganga* as regards cheating and other acts of corruption.

Unrestrained

Now there is almost a free-for-all in this connection. *Ngangas* operate in various places, far away from their original homes. There are many of them from as far away as Malawi and Tanzania. They are free from the control of their environments. So they have a whole unrestrained field of corruption.

Even if one assumes that ancestors are infallible (which they are not, since it is worthwhile to challenge them), it is too overcautious to think that people who operated in a subsistence economy can understand and keep abreast of the fluctuations of currencies in the money economy, and the influence of supply and demand as well as inflation on commodity or service prices.

This is a matter for living human beings to determine. To refuse to do so, leaving it to ancestors is to be guilty of passing the buck.

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